

By the same Author
PIONEERS OF PROGRESS
THE GOOD CITIZEN

LANDMARKS OF WORLD HISTORY

C. S. S. HIGHAM, M.A.

Illustrated by
WINIFRED TOWNSHEND



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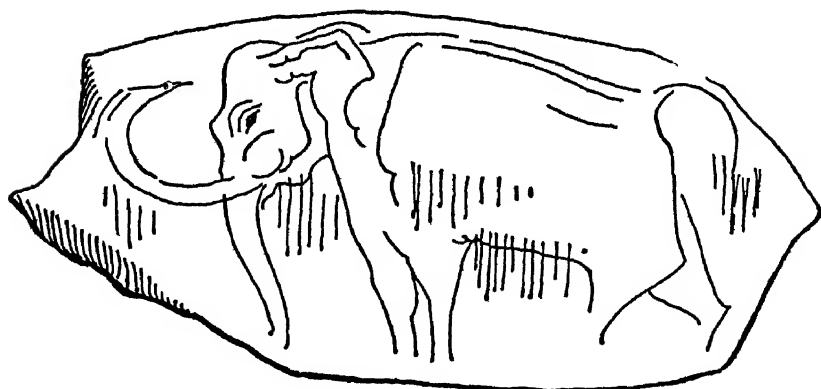
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THIRD (REVISED) EDITION 1947
NEW IMPRESSION, with modifications to chapters 30,
31, 32 1956
NEW IMPRESSION 1961



This is a copy of one of the oldest pictures in the world.
It is a drawing of a mammoth, made by the
Old Stone Men on a piece of bone.

*Made and printed in Great Britain by
William Clowes and Sons, Limited, London and Beccles*

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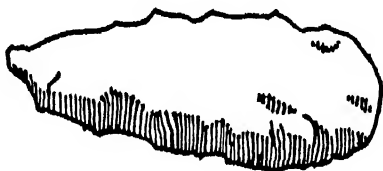
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THE PICTURES IN THIS BOOK

THE pictures in this book are as much a real part of it as the story itself. They are all new pictures drawn specially for this book, to help you to realise what the people and the places which the stories talk about were really like. The pictures for the early chapters, which tell about the first men, and the Egyptians and Babylonians, the men who lived in Crete and in Greece, were mostly drawn from carvings and from other things which have been found by excavators and other folk, and are now kept in the *British Museum*. In some cases the drawings are based on photographs of similar things which are kept in museums in other countries. If you live in London you should certainly go to the *British Museum* where you can see many interesting things which were made and used by these ancient peoples. In the *Horniman Museum* too in London there are collections which show the different sorts of tools used by early men. Of course there are museums in most towns, and if you live near one, you should find out what that museum has to show you about the folk mentioned in this book. Perhaps you live in a part of the country where old stone axes and arrow heads are found: if so you should keep a sharp look out for them. Above all find out everything you can about your own part of the country, and see how its history fits into the stories you are reading.

THE FIRST MEN WERE HUNTERS

Very, very long ago, the first men lived on the earth. We don't know very much about them, for they could not write. But we sometimes find their bones, and their paintings in old caves. And men dig up the stone hammers and axes which they made. In this way we can guess what these men were like and how they lived.



This is a stone axehead ; it used to be tied into a wooden handle.

These early men were hunters, and hunted bison and deer, boars and other animals for their food. But sometimes they were hunted too, for at first they had no weapons. Then they had to run away and hide in the trees, or up in the hills. They would dig for roots, and gather fruit and nuts too when they were hungry.

Gradually these men learnt to make weapons for themselves. At first they only used strong sticks with a sharp point, and stones to throw. Then they chipped the stones to make axes and hammers and spear heads. They worked tiny sharp pieces to a point, and fixed them to sticks and so made arrows. Then they could hunt the wild animals more safely.

These men had no houses to live in. At first they sheltered in trees, or made small tents of branches. They did not dare to go into the caves because the wild animals lived there. One day some one learned how to use a fire. Before that men were frightened and used to run away from a forest fire, just as animals do to-day. At last they learnt how to make a fire by rubbing sticks together, or striking stones. They found out how to feed it with sticks, and beat it down if it grew too large.

This made a wonderful change. For men could now go and live safely in the caves, and keep a fire burning at the mouth to frighten the animals away. They could sit round the fire and keep warm. They could cook their meat on sticks, instead of eating it raw, and they could use torches and lamps of fat to light the inside of the caves.

At first these hunting men had no clothes at all. Some people even think they may have had hair on their bodies, as animals do, to keep them warm. But when they began to kill the big animals, of

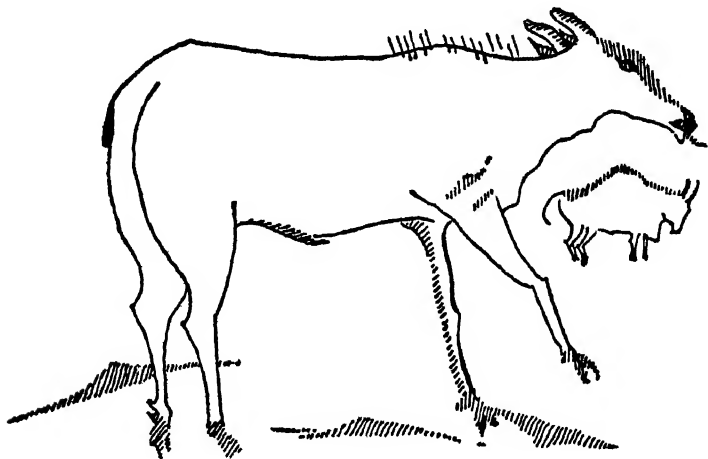
course they used their skins. They scraped them clean with sharp stone scrapers and dried them in the sun. They wrapped them tight around their bodies, and they fixed them firmly with bone pins or sewed the skins together.

The very earliest men could hardly talk at all. They would scream or cry out with fear as animals do, and they had other calls just as a pack of wolves has nowadays. But gradually men began to use special sounds as words. One man would always make the same noise when he pointed to a bison, so his friends began to know what he meant. They made the same noise and so a word for bison came into use. In different tribes different noises were used, and so gradually different languages grew up. Of course it took a very, very long time for a language to grow up like this. But when men could speak to each other, they were much safer than the strongest animals. For they could make plans and act together.

The most wonderful things which these early men have left for us are their carvings and paintings. Some of the most beautiful paintings are found on the walls of some caves far away in Spain. They show different animals such as the mammoth (a sort of elephant), the boar, the deer and others. They are wonderfully lifelike. Some people think the ancient men made these pictures as a magic, to help them in their hunting. For they are too far

back in the dark caves to be seen properly, so they could not have been put there just for people to look at.

Here is a drawing of one of these ancient paintings for you to see how clever they are.



[No one knows how long it is since the first man lived on the earth : some people think it was at least a quarter of a million years ago !]

2

HOW MEN BECAME FARMERS AND LIVED IN HOUSES

Now a very great change came about. Instead of hunting wild animals for food, men learnt to keep flocks and herds. We do not know how this

happened. Perhaps it started when a boy found some young calves or lambs, and took them home and cared for them. But it made a great difference to men's lives. For now that men learnt to be shepherds, they could have meat to eat, and milk to drink, and skins to wear whenever they needed them.

Of course these big flocks still had to move about to find more grass to eat. So for a long time the



shepherds had no settled homes and lived in tents. Some never settled down, and even to-day there are people who live like this, and they are called nomads.

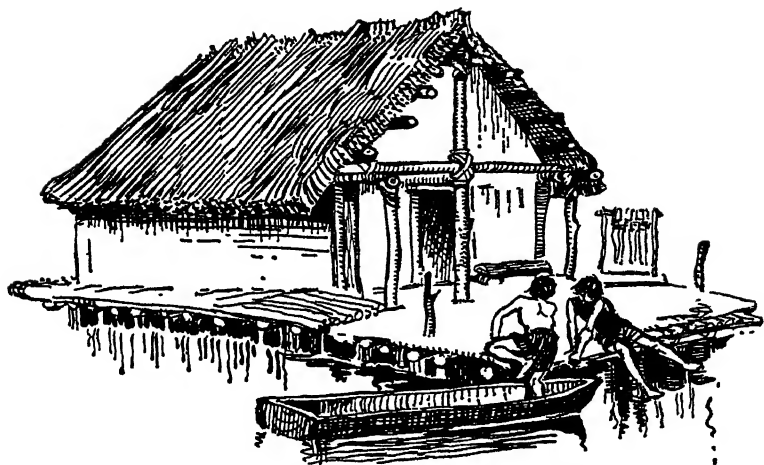
At this time, too, man made friends with the dog. He tamed the dog and taught him to watch the flocks, and to guard the tent, and even to play with the babies! The dog has been friends with man for so long now that he is a wonderful servant. If you watch a good dog looking at his master, you will see

that he understands everything that is said, although he cannot speak.

Then some men learnt to grow crops. At first they just picked the wild grain and ate it. But they gradually found out that if they threw ripe grain into the ground, it would grow and bear good grain, and give great increase. So then men became farmers. They scratched the ground with pieces of wood or horn, and sowed the grain. Later they learned to make proper ploughs. Each year they sowed the grain and gathered it, and the women ground it into flour and baked bread at the fire.

Now you know that it takes many months for grain to grow. So men had to stay in one place and look after their farms, even if they had to send their flocks away in charge of their sons and servants. They began to build good houses for themselves too. Sometimes they cut wood and made log huts, filling the sides with mud and brushwood. In some places they had huts of stones piled one on top of the other, or dug out underground. In other places there were small fishing villages, with the houses built on poles driven into the water. In some parts of the world to-day fishermen still live in houses like this.

Of course, to make these houses, men needed better tools than the hunting men had. And it was because they had first learnt to make good tools, that they could build nice houses for themselves. For a long time they still used stone for their tools

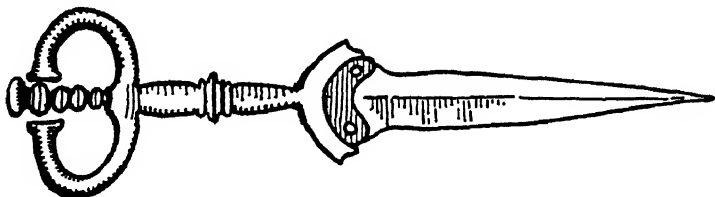


This is a fisherman's hut built on poles driven into the lake.

and weapons, but they had learnt how to grind and polish them. This gave their tools a good sharp edge, as well as making them look more beautiful. Later still the farming men learnt how to use metal. First they discovered gold, and used it to make rings and bracelets for their wives, and for the chiefs. Then they found how to smelt copper. But it was too soft to use for spears or axes. Next they found that if they mixed copper and tin they got a hard metal called bronze, which made excellent tools. Later still they began to use iron.

All this took a very, very long time, and metals were very rare and hard to make into tools. So stone tools went on being used all the time. Even if a man had a fine bronze knife, and a bronze axe,

many of the tools he used every day were still made of stone.



This is a bronze dagger which was found in Spain.

These farming men, living in their houses, were very much more comfortable than the hunters in their caves. For the farmers had learnt to make baskets and pottery and to bake it hard in the fire. So they had places in which they could store their grain. They had learnt how to weave. Now their women could make cloth from flax, and so they had clothes to wear instead of skins. They could make nets also, and this made fishing more successful.

Still these farming men had not learnt to write, and we have to find out about them by studying what they have left behind. We know that they had some form of worship, for they buried their chiefs very carefully, placing with them food and drink, and weapons too, which they might need in another life. They built temples also, and in some places we can see great stones still standing which they set up in honour of their gods. One of the most famous of these old temples is in England, and it is called

Stonehenge. But there are other temples built by these ancient men in different parts of the world.



This is one of the stone buildings made by the men in England long ago.

3

LIVING IN CITIES AND LEARNING TO WRITE

When we talk about “civilisation” we are using an old word which means “living in cities.” It was when men learnt to live together in large numbers that they became “civilised.” For then each man could do one thing and do it well. Thus there were builders and shoemakers, metal workers and fishermen, farmers and soldiers, and many others. In this way there were better houses and better shoes, and tools, and most men were better off. People could live more comfortably, and have better things to wear and to use than in the old days of farming only.

It was along the banks of the great rivers that men first learnt to live in cities. In India there was a great civilisation along the banks of the Ganges, in the days when men still used bronze. We do not know much about it yet, for the people never learnt to write, but clever men are busy digging up the ruins of these ancient Indian cities, and finding out how the people lived. In China, too, there were many early cities along the banks of the Yang-tse-Kiang. Some of the most famous of the early cities were in the land of Two Rivers—Mesopotamia, or Iraq as it is called to-day—and also along the banks of the River Nile in Egypt.

It is easy to see why cities grew up along the river banks. These great rivers were always bringing down a mass of mud, which made the lands along them so rich that crops grew easily. This mud could easily be shaped into bricks, and dried in the sun. So men could build good houses very quickly. The rivers were used as highways too. Men went along them in boats carrying goods for trade. Even to-day the great cities of the world are on rivers : London, Calcutta, New York, Cairo, Khartoum, and many more.

One reason why we know more about these ancient cities in Iraq and Egypt, than about the earlier men, is because the people who lived there began to find out how to write. This was a very wonderful invention indeed. At first it was only used

LIVING IN CITIES AND LEARNING TO WRITE 11

to tell of some king's great victory, and the number of prisoners he had taken! The king would have his picture carved on the wall of some temple, and underneath the writing was cut in the stone. Then the priests used it for magic spells, or for recording prayers and religious ceremonies. People used writing to register the land they bought and sold, and merchants began to keep accounts. Gradually people began to write letters to each other, and even to write books.

The first writing was picture writing, and the meaning was fairly clear. You can still tell a story by picture writing. The Egyptians used to write on a thin leaf of the papyrus reed, with a pen of reed, and a coloured ink. They soon got tired of drawing all the pictures fully, and invented a clever sort of shorthand. This was called "hieroglyphics," which means the writing of the priests. Only learned men in Egypt could use it. The priests and writers had to be specially trained to read and write.



This is the name of the great queen of Egypt, CLEOPATRA, written in hieroglyphics.

In Iraq the people used soft clay tablets, and pressed marks on them with a little stick. The clay tablets were then baked so that they should remain firm. At first they drew pictures, but soon these

marks quite lost the shape of pictures, yet people knew what they meant!



Here is some writing in the wedge-shaped letters of the people in Iraq.

In China men invented writing too. Here they began with pictures, but the pictures changed so much that they became "characters," and no one could tell what they meant unless they studied for many years. To-day the Chinese do not use letters as we do, but have several thousand "characters," each of which means several different things, and so reading and writing is hard to learn even for the Chinese boys and girls who live in China, Hong Kong and Malaya.



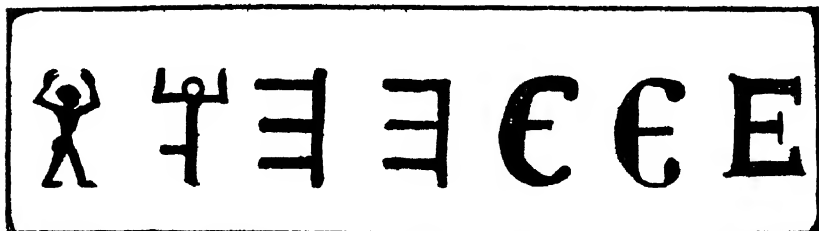
This Chinese writing means :

"The good actions you did, do not remember them.

The favours you have received, do not forget them."

The invention of picture writing was only a first step. The next thing was to turn these pictures into letters. This the Chinese never did, but men in Egypt discovered how to do it. You know that when you talk you only use a certain number of sounds. Gradually men began to use a certain picture for a

certain sound, and so the letters grew up, and people were able to use them to spell words as we do. Thus in the English alphabet, some people think that the letter E comes from a Greek letter, which was once a picture of a little man shouting "Hi," written in Egypt.



Of course this change from picture writings to letters and spelling by sounds took a very long time. But it was really very important, for it was much easier for people to learn to read and write. Books could now be written, which could be read by many people, instead of by learned people only.

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ϙ Ρ Σ
Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

This is the Greek alphabet from which ours has grown ; see how many of the letters you can recognise.

4

HOW THE PYRAMIDS WERE BUILT

In Egypt there is a great river called the Nile. It flows for many hundred miles through desert country towards the Mediterranean Sea. But on either side

of the river is a narrow strip of fertile country. For every year, when the snow melts in the mountains far away in the middle of Africa, the Nile rises and overflows its banks, carrying the rich mud. Then the crops grow quickly and are harvested.

Very, very long ago, there grew up great cities along the banks of the Nile. Men think that they were the first cities in the world. We know a lot about them because the Egyptians invented picture writing and wrote down the doings of their kings. They believed, too, that after death men went to another world where they would need the same sort of things as they wanted here. So they buried with their great men chairs and tables, tools and weapons, clothes and food, and even games and children's toys. The air is so dry in Egypt, and the tombs were sealed so tight, that these things have been preserved. We find them to-day, and can understand how the Egyptians lived so long ago. Here are some pictures of the things we find :—



The Egyptians also learned how to preserve the bodies of the dead. They filled them with sweet spices and wrapped them round with winding cloths. We call these bodies "mummies," and we can still look on the features of these ancient Egyptians who lived thousands of years ago!

The Egyptians worshipped many gods, and of these the most important was the sun god, Ra. They made small statues of their gods, showing them as men with strange animal heads. They believed that when a man died he had to give an account of his deeds to the gods. His heart was weighed against a feather. If he had done good his heart was light, but if he had done evil, and his heart outweighed the feather, he was eaten up by a special god!

Out in the country the peasants tilled the land along the river bank, but in the towns there were many different craftsmen. There were masons and potters, metal workers, jewellers, leather workers, carpenters, merchants, writers and many others. The rich men wore short skirts with jewelled belts, and the ladies had dresses hanging from their shoulders. Even the poorest folk were happier than in the old rough days when men had to live in the wilds.

The Egyptians loved music and played the harp and other instruments. They danced, too, in the great religious processions. They had schools for their children, and there were famous sculptors

and builders and painters. We find the most beautiful paintings in their rock tombs, and on the wooden cases which enclosed the "mummies."

Most of the Egyptian houses were built of mud-bricks, and so they have been washed away long ago. But some of their stone buildings remain. The most famous are the Pyramids. These are

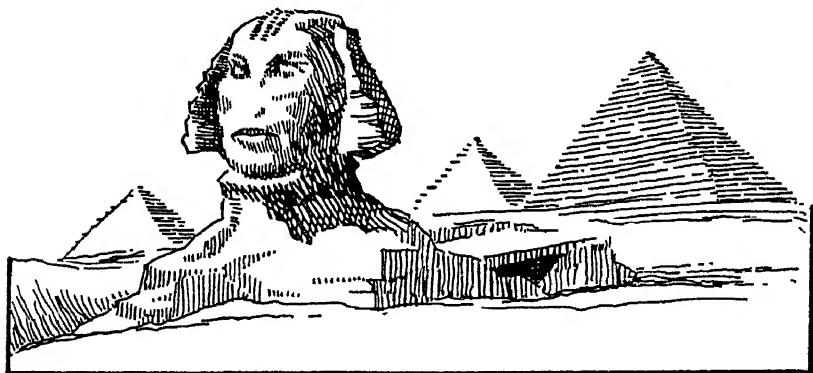


great tombs made for the burial of their kings, who were called the *Pharaohs*. The largest pyramid was built in 3733 B.C., by a Pharaoh called Cheops, for his tomb. It took many years to build, and we know how many thousand workmen were employed, because the bills for the food they ate have come down to us! These men had to cut the great stones in the quarries and drag them into place. The

pyramid was built as a series of steps, starting from a square base and working upwards to a point. When finished, it was covered with polished stone, and it must have been a marvellous sight in the sunlight.

Inside the pyramid was a very narrow passage leading to a tiny secret chamber, where the Pharaoh was buried with all his gifts for the next world. Of course other Pharaohs wanted to have fine tombs also, and so in Egypt there are several pyramids still standing.

Another famous monument of the Pharaohs is the Sphinx. It is a great lion carved out of the rock, with the head of a man. Beneath its paws was a small temple. Here is a picture of the Sphinx and the pyramids.



There were many families who ruled over Egypt one after the other for several thousand years. Sometimes they sent armies to conquer the lands

nearby. Sometimes invaders came to Egypt, and their generals became kings of Egypt instead. But all this time the cities of Egypt remained rich and strong, the artists made beautiful statues and lovely paintings, and the scribes went on writing about the doings of their people.

[You can read about the Egyptians, and how they treated the people of Israel, in the Bible—*Genesis* 37 to 50. *Exodus* 1 to 14.]

5

THE RIVER CITIES OF IRAQ

In the land of Iraq there are two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, which join and run into the sea, but in the old days they entered the sea separately. For a long time this land was called Mesopotamia, which means the Land between the Rivers, but to-day we call it Iraq. From very early times men built great cities along the banks of these rivers. The cities had strong walls to keep the enemy out, and the houses were built of bricks made of mud. The houses had lovely gardens inside a courtyard. And the people had fine clothes and beautiful jewels to wear.

Great kings ruled over these cities and trained their men to fight as soldiers. The soldiers had spears and shields and fought all together in a square, so that they beat their enemies easily. Thus

the kings conquered other cities and so built up great empires. When they defeated other nations, they often forced the people to come and live in their country and be their servants. And so they had many people to work for them.

These people worshipped the sun god, whom they called Marduk. One of their carvings shows him fighting against Tiamat, the goddess of night. Here is a picture of it :—



They built high towers, with steps going round them. Thus the worshippers could climb up high and be nearer to the sky. The priests were very learned, and studied the stars. They could count the years, and months and seasons, and make calendars. But they also believed that they could foretell the future from the stars, and thought that one star was lucky and another unlucky.

One of the greatest of the cities was called

Babylon, and there lived a famous king named Hammurabi. He was a great law-giver and made many laws for his people. If one man burnt another, he had to be burnt in turn : if he cut off a man's arm, his own arm was cut off as a punishment. This is the rule we call "an eye for an eye

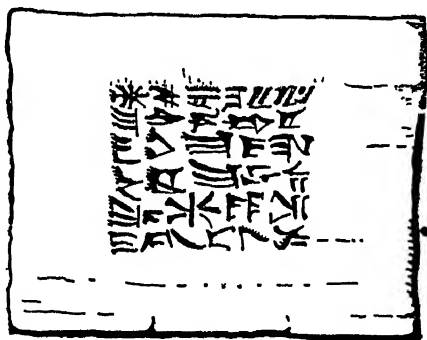


One of the Kings called Assur-bani-pal feasting with his wife.

and a tooth for a tooth." The Babylonians thought these were wonderful laws, and considered that their god must have helped Hammurabi to make them. So they carved a picture showing the god Marduk giving the laws to Hammurabi.

Babylon was a great city, and the walls were so wide that five chariots could drive round abreast.

One of the later kings built some beautiful terraced gardens for his queen. She had felt lonely so far away from her own country, so the king had the gardens made to cheer her up. These gardens became famous all over the world. Another great sight in Babylon was the king's library ; but the books were not made of paper, they were all tablets, made of clay baked hard.



This is an ancient clay tablet from Iraq with the name and titles of King Nebuchadnezzar [605-561 B.C.] written on it in their writing.

Long after the days of Hammurabi one of the kings of Babylon named Nebuchadnezzar fought against the Jews who lived in Palestine, and brought them to live in Babylon. The Jews were so sad at leaving their country that they wrote some beautiful songs of sorrow. One of them begins :

“By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.”

Zion was the name of their own holy city, which

is also called Jerusalem. The Jews wrote a record of all that happened. That is how we know so much about Babylon at this time, for these writings have been preserved in that part of the Bible called the Old Testament, which is the sacred book of the Jews and of the Christians.

[You can read about Nebuchadnezzar and the Jews in II Kings 24. The Psalm is No. 137.

DATES : *Hammurabi*, 2067-2025 B.C. ; *Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem*, 586 B.C.]

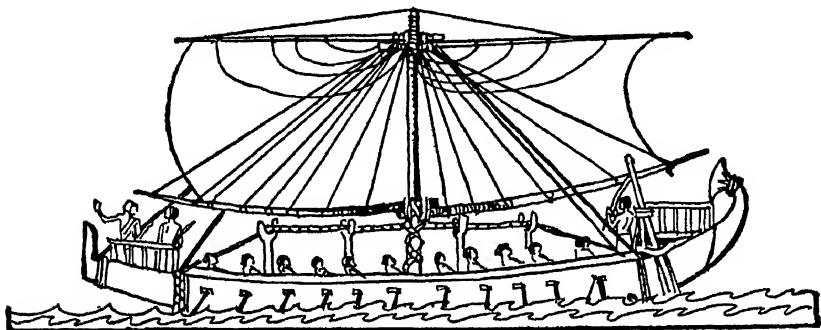
6

HOW MEN LEARNT TO TRADE BY SEA

When men in early days first wanted to cross the rivers, or go on the lakes, they used a tree trunk. Later they learnt how to cut out the middle so that they could sit inside. These boats are called dug-out canoes ; even to-day such canoes are used in some parts of the world. But the men who were living in cities by the rivers soon began to make better boats to travel in. They wanted to cross the river and to sail up and down. They carried goods to sell and they went fishing also. These boats were generally rowed by oars.

Gradually men went outside the river mouth into the open sea. They fished and they went along the

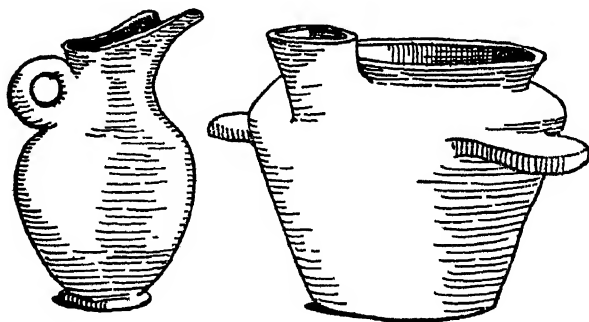
coast to other places. They learnt to make bigger ships, so that they could travel safely on the sea. If you look at this picture you will see the sort of ship they built. It has one big sail for use when the wind is fair. But it has many oars, for men can row even against the wind.



Now the Mediterranean Sea is a good sea for men who are learning to sail. It is often calm, it has many islands, and it has hardly any tide. So the ships went along the coast, and from island to island, and the men began to build new towns on the islands. Sometimes the men on the ships were pirates ; they would seize and burn a town and take away all the gold and jewels and the nice clothes. They might even take some of the boys and girls to be their slaves. Sometimes they came as peaceful traders and were content to exchange their goods for other things.

Then men invented money. It is always a nuisance if you have to exchange one thing for another : you can trade much more quickly and easily if you have something small and handy which every one wants. So the traders began to carry small lumps of gold and silver. The kings or the trading cities stamped these lumps to show they were true gold and proper weight. Now the farming men had counted all their wealth in cattle ; so in some countries the new money was stamped with the head of an ox, and men called it " cattle."

One of the greatest homes of the trading men was Crete, a big island north of Egypt. There the King, called Mincz, had a wonderful palace, with baths and water laid on in pipes and rooms heated with hot air ! The Cretans made beautiful pottery :



they played music and were very fond of festivals at which men showed their skill by fighting with savage bulls. The people were very rich for they

traded with Egypt and with other countries. For many years Crete was an important place. Then one day some pirates came down on it, killed the people, burnt the city, and left it in ruins.

The most famous sea-trading people of these early days were the Phoenicians. They had a city



called Tyre built upon an island near the coast of Palestine. Thus they were safe from the kings of the land and their ships made them safe at sea. Later these people built another city called Carthage, on the north coast of Africa, which became even greater than Tyre itself. Carthage had harbours full of ships, and a soldier on a tower always watched the sea. If he saw an enemy fleet he sounded a

trumpet to warn the people. The men of Carthage defended themselves by a great wall on the land side, for they always looked towards the sea.

These people were adventurous sailors and traded with many lands. They even went out through the Straits of Gibraltar to the great Atlantic Ocean. Then they sailed north as far as England to get the tin which was mined there by the natives.

One of their sea-captains, called Hanno, made a voyage of discovery southward down the west coast of Africa. He has left us an account of his travels, and tells us how he found great gorillas : at last he turned back because all the land appeared to be on fire. Once a Pharaoh in Egypt sent some Phœnician sailors down the Red Sea and told them never to return until they came back through the Straits of Gibraltar. No man had yet sailed round Africa, but these brave sailors did it. Look at your map and see what this means. They took three years, and had to land each year, sow their wheat and harvest the grain! When they came back they found the Pharaoh who had sent them was dead.

Of course men were beginning to sail on other seas besides the Mediterranean. The Egyptians had ships on the Red Sea. And from the cities of Iraq ships sailed along to India, and so trade by sea began there too and ships went on along the coast to Malaya. In China also the ships from the rivers went out upon the sea and so along the coast

to the other rivers and cities. But all this time sea-traders were sailing in their ships close along the coast, or from island to island : they had not yet learnt how to sail right out across the open sea as sailors do to-day.

[DATES: *Crete destroyed*, about 1000 B.C. ; *Carthage founded*, about 800 B.C. ; *Phœnician voyage round Africa*, about 600 B.C. ; *Hanno's voyage*, 450 B.C.]

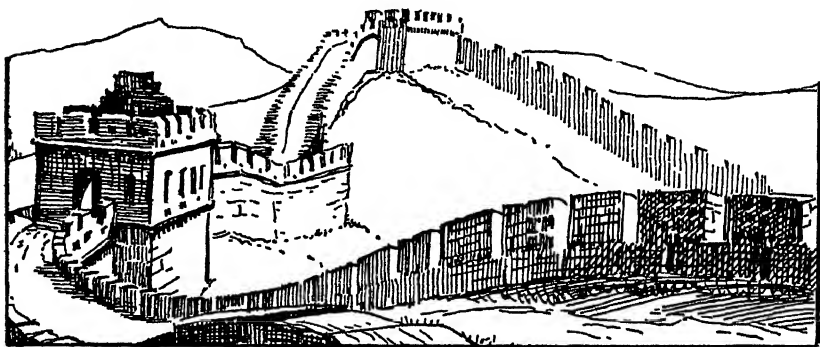
7

THE PEOPLE OF THE PLAINS

Now you have been reading about the cities of the river valleys, and the fine things the people made who lived there. But you must know that not every one was living in cities, or even in villages, at this early time. There is a great grassland running right across Asia and away to Russia, and on this grassland there lived the nomads. These peoples had no settled homes, but lived in tents and moved to and fro with their flocks and herds, continually looking for new grass for their cattle.

From time to time some of the nomads, who had heard about the rich cities, would come and capture them. Then they would begin to live in cities too. India was protected from these nomads by the high mountains, the Himalayas : you can see what a protection they were if you look at your

map. Later the people of China built the *Great Wall* to keep the nomads out. But the cities of Iraq had no such protection, and so the nomads often swept down and captured their cities.



This is a picture of the Great Wall of China : it still stands to-day.

Long, long ago there was living on these plains a group of peoples whom you must know about. They all spoke the same language, and from this language are descended many of the languages which people speak in India and in Europe to-day. So we call these ancient people and their language “Indo-European” or sometimes “Aryan.”

These Aryan-speaking people were cattle farmers. They lived in tribes under their chiefs : each tribe was like a very big family, for all its members were related. They fed on beef and loved strong drink. They enjoyed great feasts and liked to hear songs of the brave deeds of the past. Thus the story of the people was handed down by word of mouth for they

could not write. These Aryans were fair-skinned people and many had light-coloured hair. They used bronze weapons. When a chief died, they put the body on a pile of wood and burnt it. Then the bones were placed in a jar, and buried under a big mound of earth.

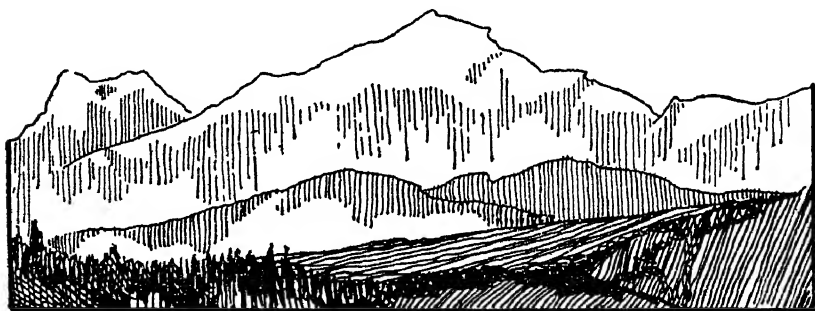
And now the Aryans began to wander far away from their grazing grounds. No one knows why



this happened. But the people packed their goods in their heavy wagons, placed the children on top, and harnessed the oxen. For the Aryans had not yet learned how to use horses. So gradually the Aryans began to move, and as they moved they split up and went different ways.

One great group of Aryan peoples found their way through the passes of the Himalayas. Here

they came down into the plain and found the dark-skinned Indians already living in cities. There were many battles, but the Aryans won and so became their masters. Thus the newcomers soon became the chief men in the country, from whom are descended the highest class in India to-day, who are called Brahmins.



Another group of Aryans came to the highlands of Iran and down into the valleys of Iraq. Here they grew into the Persian nation, and continued to worship fire as their ancestors had done. These Persians under a famous King, Cyrus, succeeded in capturing the City of Babylon.

Other Aryan peoples went westward into Europe, and gradually spread right across to distant Britain. Everywhere they went they conquered or drove out the darker peoples who were living there before. The Aryans who came through the mountains into Greece, married with the people who were there, and grew into a famous nation, called the Greeks.

In the next chapters you shall read something about what happened to these Aryan people in the different countries to which they came.

[No one knows when the Aryans started to move ; they came into India about 2000 B.C.]

8

THE STORY OF GAUTAMA

When men had learned to live in cities, and to farm the fields and sail upon the seas, they found that still they were not content. They began to wonder about life and death and the meaning of things. So for a thousand years and more between 600 B.C. and A.D. 600 great thinkers arose in different parts of the world: Buddha, Confucius, Jesus Christ and Mohammed. Their lives and teachings were so inspired that men listened to them gladly, and followed their teachings. They each had a different answer to the riddle of life, but all had one rule that was the same. Up to now great empires such as Egypt and Babylon had been built by the work of slaves, often captives taken in the wars. In India too the highest classes looked down upon the poorer people, and would have nothing to do with them. But the great teachers of India, China and the West all taught us the first and most

important rule of life that man should do to others as he wished them to do to him.

Gautama, the Buddha, was a Prince of the Sakyas, one of the Aryan tribes who lived in Northern India. He had everything a boy could want, and every one loved him, for he was a gentle and thoughtful child. When he grew up he was married to a beautiful



princess. But when he rode out in the streets of his father's city, he saw things which made him unhappy. First he saw a cripple and a sick man. Then one day he saw a dead body in the road, and a pilgrim who begged for help, and that night he decided he could live no longer as a prince, but must go out and try to understand the sadness and difficulty of life. Leaving his wife and baby son, he put on the rags of a beggar, and joined a group of pilgrims who wandered through the country, going

without food and drink and hurting themselves with knives and sticks. They believed the Truth could be understood only by those who had learned to care nothing about their bodies, and for a while Gautama did as they did. But he only made himself ill and felt he was learning nothing, so he left



his friends and refused to fast any longer, which made them call him weak. He took no notice but sat down quietly under a tree, and said he would not leave that spot until he understood how to live and what life meant. And when he arose again and joined his friends, he had found what he wanted, and he talked with them until they agreed that he was right.

For the next forty years the Buddha, as men called him, went about the country preaching his faith. He visited his father and wife again, and his little son in time grew up to be one of his most faithful followers. After Gautama died, the Buddhists were driven out of Northern India by the priests of the Hindu religion, for these Brahmins did not like his teaching that all men are brothers. But Buddhism



spread into the South of India and China and many other countries.

Gautama taught that by thinking, acting and feeling rightly, men could be happy and that the only true happiness was to be free of wrong desires and empty hopes. He called this "Nirvana," the perfect state, which man reached only when he was free of himself and his own wishes, and had grown to be part of Goodness itself. Like the Brahmins who had taught him as a boy, he believed that after a man died his soul would enter into a new

body and live on earth again. If a man lived well, he would live again a life more nearly perfect until in the end he reached Nirvana ; if he lived badly, he would live a lower life, with more desires to struggle against before he could rise to true happiness. The best Buddhists loved their brothers, as Gautama had done. They remembered he had taught them that to think clearly before acting was the only sure way to avoid wrongdoing.

[DATES : *Buddha lived* about 500 B.C.]

9

CONFUCIUS THE TEACHER OF MEN

This is the story of another great teacher, named Confucius, who lived in China about the same time as Buddha was living in India. China was shut off by a great wall of mountains and the people there had little to do with the rest of the world. By now they had a great civilisation, with many cities, and famous men. But the country was so large that the Emperor could not keep it in order. The officials in the far corners of this huge Empire obeyed the Emperor's commands only if they wished to do so. The real rulers were the Dukes, who looked after different parts of the country for the Emperor. One of these, the Duke of Lu, had as his chief adviser a teacher called Confucius, who had kept a school for young men and had travelled to

the capital city of China to read in the royal library about the story of his country. Confucius had a very deep respect for his ancestors. He believed that if every one lived in a way worthy of the great men who had gone before, and made and kept certain rules of conduct and good behaviour, there would be little unhappiness left in the world. After he had managed the affairs of the people of Lu for many years, they grew tired of him and he wandered away looking for others who would allow him to teach them. He has never been forgotten in China, and his teaching has been admired and obeyed by countless generations.



Confucius was different from Gautama, and from Jesus Christ who lived 550 years later, in taking very little notice of the things of the spirit. He did not sit under a tree till he understood the meaning of life as the Buddha was said to have done, or fast in the wilderness for forty days and nights as Jesus

did. But he read history and drew up a system of rules, which told men how to act in all the ordinary circumstances of life. This suited the Chinese who have always paid a great deal of attention to polite manners and forms of speech. But this did not mean that Confucius cared only about the outward show of things. He believed that if men controlled their tempers and desires so as to behave in a reasonable way, they would stop feeling angry or envious ; and thus there would be peace in the world. By using his common-sense, Confucius learnt the same lesson as Buddha had done ; men must control themselves and treat others well.



The Keeper of the Gate speaks to the old man Lao Tse.

There was at this time another in China who would have understood, as Confucius could not have understood, Buddha's vision and Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. This was Lao Tse, the old librarian at the Emperor's palace. When he was an old man, he left the city to live alone, but the Keeper of the Gate of the city stopped him and asked him first to write down his thoughts in a book. So Lao Tse went back and wrote his little book, and those who have followed his teaching since have been called Taoists, from a word, meaning *The Way*, which he used. And Lao Tse's way to happiness and salvation was not to make rules or to try and alter the outer form of things, but to be like the flowers, waiting happily for the spirit of good to make them beautiful. Once he and Confucius had an argument about it. Perhaps they were both right ; for some people look outwards and have to act to be happy, while others do most good by just quietly being themselves. And the Divine Spirit uses all men in different ways to teach His truth.

[DATES : *Confucius* born 551 B.C.]



THE EMPIRE OF THE PERSIANS

This is the story of the Persians and how they founded a great Empire which stretched right from India away to the Mediterranean Sea. The Persians were a part of the wandering Aryan peoples who came down into the hill country of Persia. There they settled and lived for a long time.

Then one day a great King named Cyrus led them down from the hills against the cities of Iraq, and conquered them. Now Cyrus wanted specially to capture Babylon, but it was very strong. He heard that the King of Babylon, Belshazzar, was making a feast, and that the soldiers would not be watching very carefully that night. So Cyrus persuaded some men inside the city to let him in secretly. Then Belshazzar was killed, and Cyrus became King instead.



The Persians take Babylon while Belshazzar feasts.

Before taking Babylon, Cyrus had marched into Asia Minor and defeated a very rich King called Croesus. Cyrus gave orders for Croesus and his friends to be burnt alive. But as the fire began a sudden storm of rain burst and put the fire out. Cyrus believed that the gods had sent the rain to help Croesus and so he let him live.



Cyrus, King of the Persians.

Cyrus's son conquered Egypt, and added it to the Persian Empire. But the Egyptians hated him, for he was very curious and he was always opening tombs and digging up the dead to see how men had lived in the past.

After him the Persians had a King named Darius. He was so powerful that men everywhere called him "The Great King," yet he was not contented but wanted more land.

The Persians ruled their Empire well for they forced all men to live at peace, and they made firm laws which could not be changed. The Empire was

divided into provinces, under governors. So long as the Governor sent his taxes regularly to the Great King, he could rule his province as he liked. There were good paved roads throughout the Empire, and houses for travellers to rest in. At these rest houses post-horses stood always ready to carry the King's messengers or travellers on their journeys. In Persia itself, the King built beautiful cities, and brought things from all parts of his Empire to adorn them. His palace was hung with Indian silks and the roof was covered with silver.

The thing which the King loved best was his army. He had regiments from every part of his



These are the famous body-guard called "The Immortals."

Empire. His foot soldiers wore leather armour and had long spears. His horsemen fought with bows and arrows. His own bodyguard was so famous that they were called "The Immortals."

Now Darius wanted to make use of this splendid army, and add more countries to his great Empire. So he crossed into Europe, and marched north towards Russia. He had to cross a wide river, and to do this he built a bridge of boats and left some Greek soldiers to guard it. At last he could go no further, and had to turn back. When he reached the bridge he found that part of it was broken down. He mended it, but he never trusted the Greeks again.

Soon afterwards, when Darius was home in Persia, news came that some of the Greek cities in Asia Minor had rebelled against his rule. They had even dared to attack his finest city, Sardis, and to burn it ! Darius was furious, and asked who had helped these rebels to do this. He was told that it was the Athenians, the men of a small city named Athens, in the land of Greece. He vowed that he would be revenged, and ever afterwards at dinner a servant whispered in his ear, "Sir, remember the Athenians." Darius did not forget and spent a long time getting his ships and men ready to punish the Athenians.

[DATES : *Cyrus takes Babylon*, 539 B.C.]

THE WARS OF GREEKS AND PERSIANS

The ancient Greeks are one of the most wonderful people of all history. For they had great poets, fine artists, and many wise men. They wrote down in their beautiful language an account of their doings. So we know a great deal about them. Even to-day people respect the Greeks very much, and often read their writings.

Now these ancient Greeks were once a wandering Aryan people, as were the Persians. The Greeks came down from the North through the mountains into the land we now call Greece, burning the houses and slaying the people. So you see at first the Greeks were little better than robbers and pirates. But they soon settled down and began to live in little cities. Each city governed itself, for the Greeks did not like kings. And each city tried



to keep itself free of its neighbours, for the Greeks did not like big empires either. Outside the city walls were the villages and farms. Inside the city, in the market place, the citizens bought and sold their goods. They went together to the beautiful temples to pray. They would go to the public meeting place in the open air, to make new laws, and to choose their magistrates each year.

There were two chief cities in Greece : Athens, which was a seaport and had many ships and much trade, and Sparta, whose citizens were proud to keep themselves fit so that they could fight as soldiers for their city.

It was this city of Athens which had helped the rebels against the Great King as you read in the last chapter. So when at last Darius had gathered his army he sent it to punish the Athenians. The army came across the sea in ships and landed close to Athens, and all the citizens marched out to battle. There was a great fight at Marathon, but the Persians were defeated, and forced to flee away in their ships. A man ran all the way from Marathon to Athens, some twenty-six miles, with the good news. The Spartans who had come to help the Athenians arrived too late, and could only look in wonder on the dead, and go home to their city.

For ten years nothing happened. Darius died, but the new king, Xerxes, gathered a yet larger army, and led it himself round by land and through



The runner Pheidippides bringing the news of the battle of Marathon to Athens.

the mountains into Greece. This time it was the Spartans who suffered. They sent a small force of their very finest men to hold a narrow pass through which Xerxes had to come. But a traitor showed Xerxes a secret path across the mountains. The Spartans were attacked in front and behind, and bravely fought until they were all killed. The huge Persian army came on, and the people of Athens had to leave their city and take refuge in their ships. Xerxes marched into their city and burnt their temple on its hill.

Then came the greatest battle of all. It was a sea fight at Salamis just near to Athens, for Xerxes had brought his fleet to help his army. Xerxes built a throne so that he could sit and watch his sailors beat the Athenians. And the Athenian people watched from the Island of Salamis, where they were sheltering. The Athenians fought so bravely

that they beat the Persians, and destroyed their ships. The King was very angry and went home. Next year the Persian army was defeated too, and had to go back to Asia.

Men could hardly believe it. These tiny cities had defeated the army of the Great King. Of course the Persians did not really bother any more. Greece was so far away from their capital that it was not worth while. But to the Greeks it was a wonderful thing and they became a very famous people as you shall hear.

[DATES : *Battle of Marathon*, 490 B.C. ; *Battle of Salamis*, 480 B.C.]

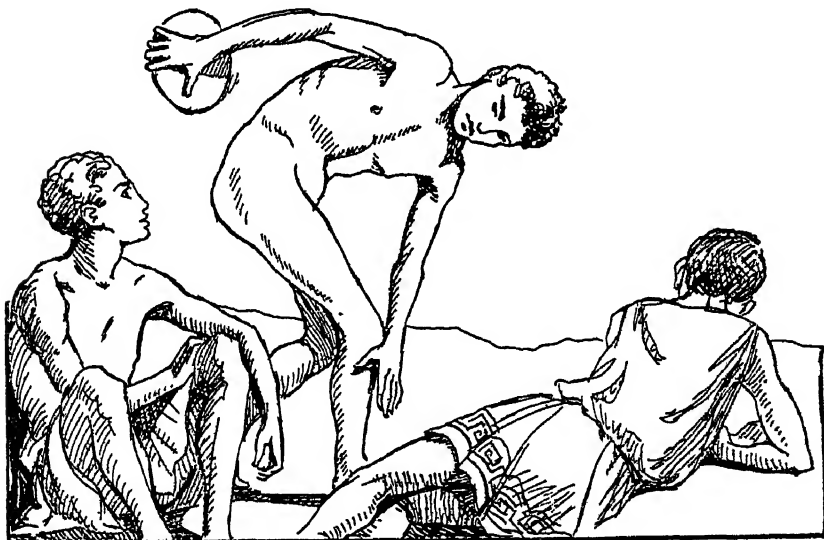


HOW THE GREEKS TAUGHT MANKIND TO THINK

The Greeks, who lived in their little cities among the rocky valleys, did more for mankind than all the

other people whom you have been reading about. For the Greeks loved beautiful things, and they taught men how to think properly.

The Greeks thought that anything ugly was bad. The Greek took care of his body to keep it fit and beautiful. The boys and girls exercised with music and dancing in the sunlight. The greatest event in the year was the Games, in which Greeks from many



cities would take part. The winner received a crown of leaves and his city gave him special honours. It was one of these fine runners who brought the news of the victory at Marathon to Athens.

The Greeks discovered how to build the most

lovely buildings. They used the white marble of their country, which shone in the sunlight. Men still think the Greek temples, with their rows of pillars, are some of the finest buildings that have ever been made. The Greeks also made beautiful statues and lovely pottery.

In Athens there were famous poets who wrote plays which were acted in the open air, and some of these plays are still read and studied to-day.



Greek actors with masks. The laughing masks were for the funny characters; the crying masks for the sad characters.

But most of all the Greeks are famous because they taught men to think properly. In those early days men believed chiefly in magic. It was the Greeks who first began to explain "why" and "how," and so helped mankind to understand the reason for things.

One man named Thales who lived at a city called Miletus made a careful study of the stars. He discovered that the moon did not shine by its own light but reflected the sun. He was clever at figures, and by his work was able to foretell an eclipse. Of course men did not believe him—and when the eclipse actually happened in the middle of a battle, they thought the gods were angry, so they stopped the battle and went home. Thales also worked out how many days it took for the earth to go round the sun, and so discovered that there were 365 days in the year.

Another famous Greek was called Pythagoras. He found out that the earth was not flat, but was a ball floating in space, and that the stars were flaming suns.

All these new ideas surprised the Greeks very much and made them think a lot. But there was one man who lived in Athens who made the Greeks think more carefully than ever. His name was Socrates. He was short and fat and ugly, with a funny flat nose, and as he always went about in one old cloak you might think that every one would laugh at him. But they respected him very much, for Socrates was a very clever man. Wherever he went, in the street, at dinner, among his friends, he was always asking questions. At first men thought they were easy to answer, but they soon saw that

this was not so. For Socrates was always asking "Why?"—and most men had never thought why



Socrates asking the young men "Why?"

they did a thing. They generally did it because their fathers had done so before them! Soon Socrates had a little group of friends who always went with him everywhere, and talked together. Some men were frightened; they feared that Socrates' questions would lead men away from the worship of the gods. So Socrates was condemned to death by drinking poison. He calmly took the cup and drank it with a smile!

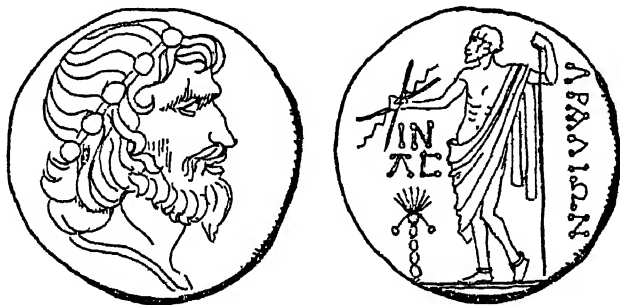
Now one of Socrates' pupils was named Plato. He wrote down many of Socrates' conversations, and that is how we know about his sayings. Plato started a school of his own in a garden called the Academy; there he taught his pupils to think. Men called them "philosophers," which means lovers of wisdom.

The most famous of these philosophers was

Aristotle, who was a young pupil of Plato. He was most interested in *things*, and he was always making collections of birds, plants, animals and stones, and sorting and arranging them. Thus he became the first of the great naturalists. Aristotle became the tutor of the prince Alexander of whom you will read in the next story.

You will see how much the Greeks have done for mankind. Although the Egyptians were wise and had found out many things, we owe still more to the Greeks for teaching man to think clearly. They helped to start the study of science and philosophy, and of natural science as well as of medicine, music and history too !

[DATES : *Socrates died 399 B.C.*]



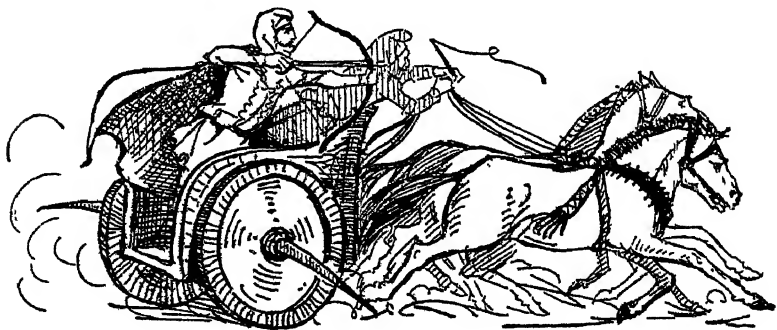
THE STORY OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Just north of Greece there was a country called Macedon, and it was ruled by a King named Philip.

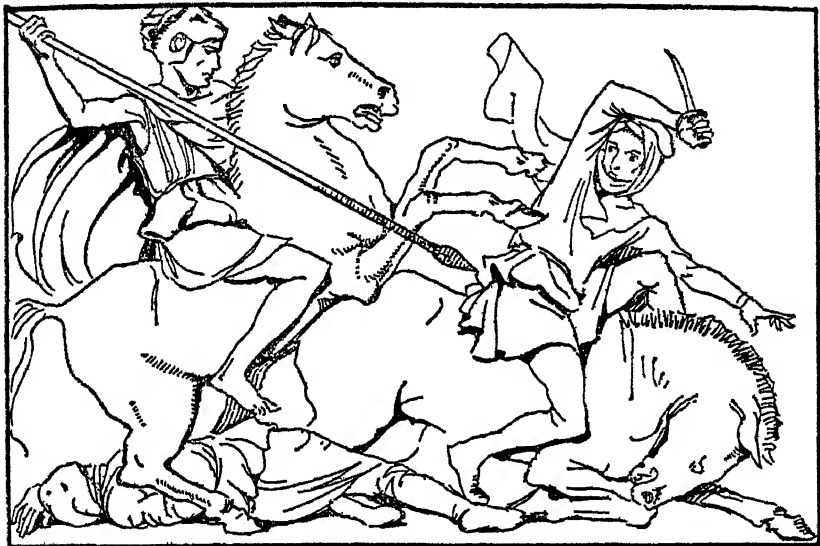
He was half a Greek, and admired the Greeks very much. He had a fine army of horse soldiers, and he longed one day to lead this army into Asia against the Persians in revenge for the wars of Xerxes. Now the Greeks were often quarrelling among themselves ; so it happened that Philip made himself ruler of the Greek cities. Thus he had their brave foot soldiers to help his cavalry.

Just as he was ready to start, a traitor stabbed him, but his people chose his son Alexander to lead them instead. Alexander was young and beautiful ; he was a fine horseman and a great general. He was fired with the stories of the deeds the Greeks had done in the past.

So in 334 B.C. Alexander and his men crossed into Asia, and fought a battle in which they defeated the Great King, who was called Darius *the Third*. This Darius got another army and met Alexander at a river crossing, hoping to defeat the Greek foot soldiers with his chariots which had terrible knives



fixed to them. But Alexander crossed with his horsemen and surrounded the Persians. The Great King had to leave his chariot and flee on a horse.



Here Alexander captured all his camp, and even the Great King's wife, whom he treated very kindly. Soon after, Darius sent a message offering Alexander half his Kingdom. Then Parmenio, his friend, said : " If I were Alexander I would accept." " Yes," said Alexander. " I would accept if I were Parmenio !" But for Alexander half was not enough ; he wanted the whole.

So Alexander marched on into Egypt, where he was chosen King. There he founded a city called Alexandria after him ; and it is still an important place to-day.

From Egypt Alexander set out towards Iraq, and the capital of the Persian Empire. A last battle was fought, and again Alexander was victorious. Darius fled with a few friends into the hills, and Alexander followed close after him. Darius' friends became desperate, and they killed him with their daggers, so he did not fall into Alexander's hands.

Alexander was not satisfied. He marched on eastward, and through the Khyber Pass down into India. There he was met by an Indian King named Porus, who had a strong army with many elephants. These elephants carried towers on their backs filled with archers. Most of Alexander's men had never seen elephants before ; but by now his army was so well drilled that it faced them firmly. The elephants turned and trampled their Indian masters to death.

The soldiers were now tired of marching and fighting. It was twelve years since they had left Macedon ! When Alexander wanted to go on they refused, and his friends persuaded him to turn back. So Alexander returned to Babylon, and there he stayed a long time making plans for new wars and building a fleet to carry his men. But he fell sick and died ; and his great empire at once split up. His chief generals made themselves kings, each of a separate province.

Alexander was only thirty-two when he died, but his life was not a failure as it might seem. For he

was a great worshipper of Greek ideas, and wherever he went he built cities for Greeks to live in, so that Greek art and science could flourish all over the lands he had conquered. If you consider what happened at Alexandria, the city he built in Egypt, you will see what this meant.



This is a picture of the young Alexander.

Alexandria became a meeting-place for people from many lands. It had a medical school where many doctors studied, and their writings have come down to us to-day. A great library grew up which became famous all over the ancient world. Men of science came to study there from many countries. At Alexandria a Greek named Euclid, once a slave, worked out the principles of geometry, drawing his figures in the sand. There, too, another Greek scholar discovered how to measure the weight of the earth. And at Alexandria there studied the

famous Greek scientist Archimedes. He was a great inventor. One of his inventions was the crane. You can imagine how he astonished his friend the King, by inventing a huge crane which lifted a ship right out of the water !

[*Alexander born 356 B.C., died 323 B.C.*]

14

A CITY THAT BECAME AN EMPIRE

The Rise of Rome

While Alexander was conquering Asia, a new power was growing up in the Mediterranean. This was the city of Rome. To-day Rome is the capital of Italy, and still one of the most important cities of the world. Long ago it was a tiny village of wooden huts, on a ford across a river, where people came down from either side to trade. Gradually more people came to live there ; a fort was built on the highest hill, a wall made round the little city, and a bridge across the river.

The Romans were ruled at first by foreign kings, but they drove them out and began to rule themselves. Each year they chose magistrates to govern them, and the people met in assembly to pass new laws. The Romans were a farming folk, who came when necessary to fight for the city. They were a

stern hard people, very brave but rather coarse and brutal. They fought in small companies armed with a short sword ; and their generals knew that they would always obey orders promptly. The Romans had as allies other towns in Italy, and gradually they conquered the whole of the country. They made these men citizens of Rome.



And now the Romans had a terrible time, for they had a desperate enemy in Carthage. It had been founded by the sea-traders, the Phœnicians, as a daughter-city, and had become a rich and powerful city, with war fleets and armies as well as trading vessels. The people of Carthage held

Spain, and they had much power in the large island of Sicily. The Romans were very jealous of Carthage, and so a war broke out between them. The Romans had no warships but soon learnt to build them. They also invented a new way of fighting by sea. They made bridges which they could lower from their ships, and so the Roman soldiers could rush on board the Carthaginian ships. Then the fight was like a land fight and the Carthaginians were beaten, for the Romans were good fighters by land.

So the Carthaginians had to give up Sicily, but they never forgave the Romans. One of the Carthaginian generals in Spain had a small son



named Hannibal, and he always taught Hannibal to hate the Romans steadily. When the boy grew up he collected a strong army, with many elephants and horses, and marched against Rome. He came

by land, through France and over the Alps. These mountains were so high and cold that many of the elephants and men died on the way.

When Hannibal at last reached Italy he defeated the Romans in three great battles. Very many of the Roman citizens were killed. Then Rome was saved by one clever man, who was nicknamed *Cunctator* which means *The Delayer*. He would never let Hannibal fight him in open battle. Instead, he marched around and destroyed all the food that Hannibal's army needed to live on. This went on for many years, until at last Hannibal had to go back to Carthage to defend his city against an army which the Romans had sent to attack it. Carthage had to give in. Peace was made and Rome took Spain for herself, and made the people of Carthage send their brave general Hannibal away.

Not many years after, the Romans made an excuse for attacking Carthage again. They killed all the people. They pulled down the walls and the houses. They even ploughed up the land on which the city stood and cursed it ! For the Romans were a cruel and brutal people.

Now these wars were very bad for the Roman people. Many slaves were taken and sold to the rich men, who used them on their farms. The poor men could not make their living, and so gave up their little farms and came to live in the city.

Then the rich men seized these lands also. So in the city there were a great many people always demanding food. And the magistrates gave them food and games to amuse them.

As Rome was getting more powerful, so her generals were getting more ambitious. Each Roman who was chosen as general wanted to have a war so that he could make money, and receive a splendid welcome when he came home. Thus the Romans conquered all the lands around the Mediterranean, and made the people obey them. These lands became the Roman Empire.

Often the Roman generals quarrelled, and sometimes they fought against each other. One of the most famous of these generals was Julius Cæsar. He



conquered France, and crossed over into Britain. Later he fought and defeated a rival general, but in 44 B.C. he was murdered by his friends. For they feared he would make himself emperor of Rome.

And they still loved liberty more than their friend.

Then Julius Cæsar's nephew, who was called Augustus, came to Rome. He was very young, but he was a very able man. He made friends with all the chief men of the city. He pretended to restore the old city government. He called himself the "chief citizen," but he was really an Emperor. And for many years Rome and the Roman Empire had peace, and men were content.

[DATES : *Rome expelled her kings*, 510 B.C. ; *War with Carthage*, 264-146 B.C. ; *Julius Cæsar was murdered*, 44 B.C.]

15

CHRISTIANITY

There is a small country just north of Egypt along the sea coast called Palestine. In it there lived a people called the Jews. They had had a very sad time. For the great Kings of Babylon and of Egypt often marched across their country and fought against them. Their chief city was destroyed, and they were carried away captive to Babylon.

After a time a few came back and built their city again. But they still had an unhappy time, and at last the Romans made Palestine a part of their Empire, and sent a governor there. The Jews

were always longing for the day when they should be free again, and have a King of their own.

One day soon after the Romans had seized the land a little boy was born in Palestine called Jesus. He grew up as a carpenter's son, and as he got older all men wondered at his goodness and wisdom.



When he became a man he spent his time going about doing good, and healing the sick, and teaching people about God. Many followed him gladly. Some of the leaders of the Jews were jealous of his power. They brought him before the Roman Governor, and accused him of plotting to make himself King of the Jews. So the Governor had him executed.

The leaders of the Jews were glad to get rid of him. But his followers believed that he had risen from the dead and come to comfort them. They worshipped Jesus as the Son of God, and began openly to preach their good news.

At first men laughed at them, and the leaders of the Jews had them punished. Yet when people saw what good lives these men lived, and how their faith strengthened them, others too began to believe in Jesus. These people were called Christians.

These early followers of Jesus met together, and planned to go out through the Roman Empire telling all men about their Master. One of the chief of these travellers was called Paul. He was often thrown into prison by the Romans for his work. At last he was taken to Rome itself, and lived there for several years teaching men about Jesus. Then the Romans executed him because he would not pay honour to the Emperor as a god.

Gradually the Christian faith spread right through the Roman Empire. At first it was mainly the poor people who listened and became Christians. Then others too were interested, until at last, after 300 years, the Emperor Constantine himself became a Christian, and tried to make Christianity the religion of the whole Empire.

This was not wholly a good thing. At first only those had become Christians who truly wished to live the simple sort of life which Jesus had lived.

But now Christianity was fashionable ; every one called himself a Christian, and many did not care how they lived. And that is what has happened in Christian lands ever since ; all men say they are Christians, but few live in the way Jesus did.

[DATES : *Death of Jesus*, A.D. 30 ; *Constantine allows Christian worship*, A.D. 313.]

16

THE ROMAN PEACE

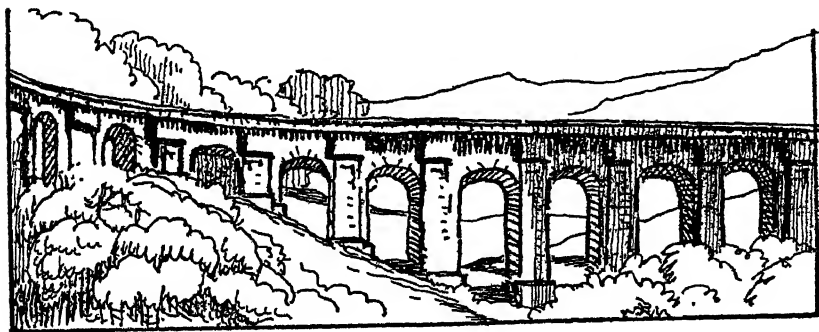
Augustus and the rulers who followed him took great care to protect their Empire from enemies. The Mediterranean was like a Roman lake : the lands all round formed the Roman Empire, and beyond were the barbarians. The Romans tried to get frontiers they could defend easily. In some places they had a desert as in Africa and Asia ; in others they chose a river. And occasionally they built high walls with forts and towers as they did in Britain.

Along these frontiers were placed the Roman armies. The regiments came from all parts of the Empire, and were stationed far from home. There was often fighting along these frontiers, but within there was peace for a very long time.

Now this peace was very good for the citizens of

the Empire. They could live happily in their towns without fear of attack, or in pleasant houses in the country. The merchants could carry their goods safely by sea, or along the new roads the Romans had made. Different parts of the Empire made various things, pottery, cloth, glassware, and they were quickly sold in other places. All this was good for the citizens of the Empire ; they grew rich, and had peaceful and pleasant lives.

The Romans were great builders. They had learnt how to use concrete and to make arches. They brought water to all the cities of their Empire, carrying the water-channel on arches across the valleys. And they taught the people to build fine market places, and beautiful arches across the roads, and bath-houses too. These baths were used as clubs where the men came to meet and do business, and discuss the news. The Romans made good roads and bridges throughout their Empire.



A Roman "aqueduct" carrying water to a distant city.

The whole of the Empire spoke the Roman language, which is called Latin. Thus people could travel about easily. The more educated people knew Greek as well, for the Romans respected the Greeks and still studied the teachings of the great men of Greece. And so the people whom the Romans conquered learnt to know something of the wisdom of the Greeks.

But the Romans were coarser and more brutal than the Greeks. They treated their slaves very harshly, branding them like animals, and working them to death on great farms. In each great city



Here is a Roman gladiator with a net who has just conquered his man and is shouting to ask the audience whether he shall kill him or spare his life.

they built a public theatre in which to have their games. And what they loved best, was to see men fighting against savage beasts, or with each other. They even kept specially trained fighters to kill each other. When the fight was over the man who had won asked the people what he should do with the man he had defeated. And very often the people would turn down their thumbs, and this meant "kill him." For the Romans loved to see blood.

This is the bad side of the Roman civilisation. But we must remember the good side too. They taught many different peoples to live together in peace, and to be good citizens of the State. For the Romans were great law givers, and some of their laws are still used in parts of Europe to-day !

Gradually things began to go badly with the Roman Empire. Taxes were heavy, and the free labourers began to be treated almost as if they were slaves. Many people in the towns could not make a living and kept shouting for free food, and for public games. The Generals on the frontiers came with their armies and fought against each other to make themselves Emperors.

Now there was a great general named Constantine, who made himself Emperor at the City of York in England. He was the man who made Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire. He defeated his rivals and determined to try and stop

all these troubles. For a time he seemed to be successful. He built himself a new city in the eastern part of the Empire called Constantinople, which means "Constantine's" city. There he went to live, and later chose a friend to be ruler at Rome. Thus the Empire was permanently divided



This is the Emperor Constantine when he was a young man before he grew a beard.

into two parts, an Eastern part with a ruler at Constantinople and a Western part with a ruler at Rome. And soon after, the Western part was conquered by barbarians who came pouring over the frontier.

[DATES : *Constantine becomes ruler of the whole Roman Empire, A.D. 324.*]

THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS

This is the story of how the Roman peace ended, and how the Roman Empire itself was destroyed by the invasion of many peoples. To understand this properly we must look at the other end of the earth. There in China a wonderful Empire had grown up. There were rich cities on the great rivers, and the people were very learned and respected greatly the wisdom of their elders and the customs which were written down in their old books. A great Emperor named Shi Hwang Ti arose, about the time of Alexander, and to protect China against the nomads of the plains he built a *Great Wall* all round the land.

But the Chinese did not stay inside their wall,



The Huns were brave fighters who were clever with horses.

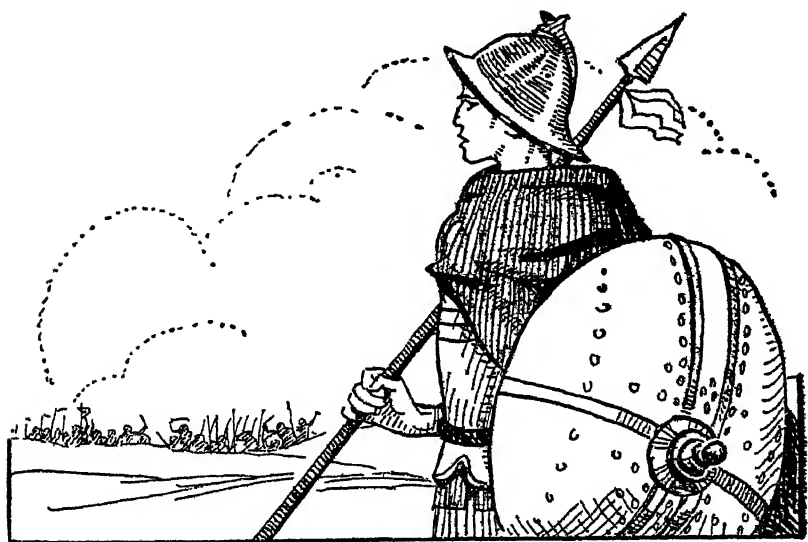
and year after year their farmers pushed outwards looking for new lands for farms, and thus the nomad peoples got pushed further westwards. One of the most important of these peoples were the Huns. They were brave fighters, who were very clever with horses. So they determined to move away from the East and look for new lands to live in. As they went they pushed other peoples before them, until the Romans found the folk outside their Empire, constantly trying to break through their armies and come inside. All along the Roman frontiers there was fighting, and sometimes the Romans won, and sometimes the barbarians defeated the Roman armies.

At last the Roman Emperors began to use the barbarian soldiers to protect their Empire. This was bad because when they went home they knew all about how the Romans fought. Soon the Romans even had barbarians as their Generals !



The barbarians crossed the Alps and entered Italy

Then the barbarians broke through altogether. They burnt the Roman towns and country houses, they slew the people and they seized all they could lay their hands on. Wave after wave of people came across the River Rhine from Germany into France, and so on into Spain. Some crossed over into Northern Africa and seized it, others came across the Alps and entered Italy. Even the great city of Rome itself was captured and burnt by the barbarians.



Here is a soldier from one of the German tribes who helped to break up the Roman Empire.

The different tribes who came had many names : one tribe was called the Franks and they settled in

France, and from them the French people of to-day have their name. You must not think that these barbarians killed all the inhabitants. They slew the soldiers and the chief men, and then settled down to enjoy the country.

But these invaders were a rough and uncivilised folk. They had never lived in cities ; they could not read or write, and many of the beautiful things the Romans enjoyed—paintings and buildings, baths and books—were foolishness to them. So they destroyed all they met. And this part of Europe fell back into the hands of farmers living in villages, and there were many tiny kingdoms often at war with each other.

Part of the wisdom of the Greeks and Romans was saved. This was done by the Christian priests who built monasteries where they could live secure from all these troubles. They spent much of their time copying the ancient Latin books, as well as saying their prayers. But they were not really interested in science and the wisdom of the Greeks. Indeed the Greek language was quite forgotten by the people, and very often Latin was only remembered by a very few of the learned folk.

Just a small part of the old Roman Empire remained. The city of Constantinople and the eastern part of the Roman Empire was not seized by the barbarians. It continued to speak Greek and to look back to the great days of the past.

But in the west the Roman civilisation had disappeared.



Here is a monk in a monastery copying very carefully from a manuscript : of course there was no printing in those days and so everything had to be written by hand.

[DATES : *Roman Empire overrun by the barbarians*, A.D. 376-476 ; *Sack of Rome*, A.D. 455.]

18

ISLAM

Soon after the Roman Empire fell a new Empire arose, which in some ways was just as wonderful. It was built up by the Arabs who were fired by the new religion of Islam. Here is the story of how it happened.

Arabia is a very big country and much of it is

desert land. There the Arabs lived as nomads, moving from well to well. And great caravans or camels went across the desert, carrying dates and goods for other cities. Many Arabs lived in cities of which the chief was Mecca, but they were often fighting against each other.



Camels carrying goods across the desert.

Now in Mecca there was born a small boy named Muhammad. His uncle was a merchant who dealt in camels. As Muhammad grew up he learnt to help his uncle. And he also went to the temple called the Kaaba, where he saw a great black stone the people worshipped—as well as more than 350 images of different gods !

Muhammad often thought about this, and he heard about the religion of the Christians, and of the Jews. The more he thought, the more he believed that there was only one God over all the world, and that all men should worship Him. He

believed that he, Muhammad, was the chosen Prophet of the true God, called in Arabic Allah.

So Muhammad told some friends of this and they believed him. But when the people of Mecca heard of it, at first they laughed at Muhammad. They then became angry, and threw stones at him and drove him from the city. So Muhammad with his friends fled away to another city called Medina. This happened in the year A.D. 622; and the Muhammedans always count their dates from this year, just as Christians do from the birth of Jesus. In Medina they built a small house of prayer, called a mosque. And the people of the city listened to Muhammad and believed his teaching.

Then the people of Medina fought against the men of Mecca and defeated them. The people of Mecca said they would accept this new religion called Islam, if Muhammad would come back and live in their city. For they wanted Mecca still to be a sacred city, so that pilgrims would continue to visit it.

So Muhammad went back to Mecca and destroyed all the images in the Kaaba and built a beautiful mosque instead. For he thought that God was so great that no man should presume to make an image of Him. Then Muhammad conquered all Arabia and all the Arabs followed Islam. And he sent messages to the kings of the earth, to Persia

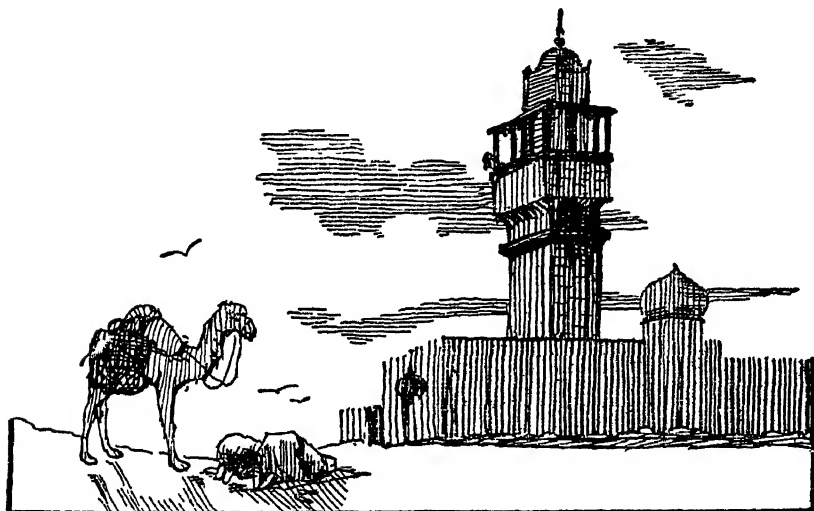
and China and many different lands, urging them to accept Islam.

And then Muhammad died. But his followers were strong men and Arabian armies marched out and conquered many other countries. They took Palestine and Persia and Iraq. They came through the Himalayas into Northern India. They seized Egypt and marched right along the northern coast of Africa. They crossed into Spain and conquered it. But they were stopped in France by a King called Charles who defeated them in a fierce battle. He was nicknamed *The Hammer* because of his great victory. And when the Arabs tried to cross from Asia Minor into Europe the great city of Constantinople defeated them. These wars took about 100 years.

Now wherever the Arabs went men accepted Islam. And everywhere they built beautiful mosques in which the Faithful could say their prayers. But the Muslim Empire did not remain one state like the Roman Empire. It quickly broke up into many different kingdoms.

The Arabs took all the learning of the different cities which they conquered, and wrote it down in Arabic. Thus much of the learning of the Greeks was preserved by the Arabs. And they added much to it themselves. They invented algebra and studied mathematics very deeply. They were excellent doctors, and could perform very skilful

operations and used medicine which sent their patients to sleep. They built lovely palaces and mosques, using graceful arches and bright-coloured tiles. And in these mosques were schools and universities too.



A mosque : you can see the little gallery from which the muezzin calls the Faithful to prayer.

The Arabs built many fine cities ; in Iraq they founded Bagdad. Most of you know the story of the great ruler of Bagdad, Harun al Rashid, and how he had the Arabian Nights Entertainments written down. In these stories we see the wealth of that great city in his days. Then the Arabs founded Cairo, the new city on the Nile, which is still the capital of Egypt. There the famous University of Al Azar still has students from all over the

world. In Spain their greatest city was Cordova which had one-third of a million people in it, and many mosques and palaces.

Wherever the Muslim lives, you will see the mosque and hear the muezzin call to prayer at eventide, "God is great, There is no God but God, Muhammad is His Prophet."

[DATES : *Muhammad's flight*, A.D. 622 ; *Moslem invasion of France defeated by Charles the Hammer*, A.D. 732.]

CHARLES THE GREAT *or* CHARLEMAGNE

You read in the last chapter how when the Arabs came from Spain into France they were defeated in a battle by "Charles the Hammer." This man was a great King of the Franks, but his grandson was much more famous. Men call him Charles the Great—or Charlemagne.

We can picture Charlemagne to-day, for a friend who knew him well has written for us an account of his life. You can imagine Charlemagne, striding through the court, tall and quick, with flashing eyes and white hair. He wears a blue shirt, with short linen trousers, and if it is winter, a cloak of fur. By his side hangs a jewelled sword, from a golden belt. When he sits down to dinner, he has



Here is Charlemagne finishing his dinner, while a young man reads to him.

four courses and the roast meat is brought in on iron forks. While he eats, some servant reads to him from a holy book, and he listens carefully. He eats heartily, but drinks very little, and hates to see men drunken.

If it were summer he would take off his clothes and have a sleep for a couple of hours in the heat of the day. Later he might ride a horse, or else he would swim, for he was very fond of it and could swim better than any man. Then he would listen to disputes and settle them, or take council with his counsellors.

This man, Charlemagne, looked back to the great days of the past when the Roman Empire was powerful and there was peace in the land. He wanted to restore that time, and dreamed that he might himself one day be Emperor. He led his army into Germany and defeated the wild Saxons and made them obey him. He marched into Spain hoping to drive out the Arabs, but this he could not do. He seized land in Italy, too, and so he was ruler over a very large territory.

Now in those days Rome still seemed to all men in Europe to be the centre of the world. But, of course, there was no Emperor left. Yet even after the barbarians had seized the Roman Empire there was something left which held men together, and that was the fact that they had the same religion—Christianity. And so it happened that the chief

priest in Rome, the bishop, began to be thought of as the head of all Christians in Western Europe. He was called Papa—Father—the Pope, and Christians began to turn to him for help, and to obey his orders.

When Charlemagne marched into Italy he attacked a people called the Lombards, who were troubling the Pope, and defeated them. Then he marched on to Rome, and there, at a great service



The Pope and the Emperor Charlemagne.

in the church, the Pope crowned him as Emperor! Charlemagne was very proud and tried to deserve this great title. But he never ruled the whole of the old Roman Empire, and after his death his Kingdom was divided among his sons, and the different parts were soon fighting again.

But we remember Charlemagne for two reasons. First he started the idea of "Holy Roman Empire,"

in which there should be an Emperor to rule men and women, while the Pope should rule their religious life. Pope and Emperor were to share the work together. This was a good idea, but it was very difficult to carry out—and later the Popes and the Emperors sometimes even fought against each other!

The other reason we remember Charlemagne is because he tried to revive learning among his people. He could not read himself, indeed for years he had a book under his pillow and tried to learn but could not! He had started too late in life. But he encouraged others. Schools were set up and the young people were taught to read and write. So from the time of Charlemagne the "Dark Ages" began to pass away. Men were learning to be civilised again.

[DATES : *Charlemagne crowned by the Pope, A.D. 800.*]

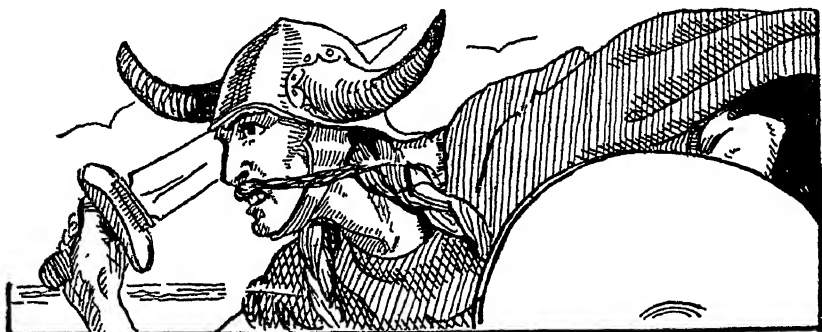
20

HOW MEN IN EUROPE BECAME CIVILISED AGAIN

The Middle Ages

After Charlemagne died, his Empire split up. All over Europe there were little kingdoms, often fighting with each other. And there were sea-robbers called Vikings coming down from the North

who attacked the land. It was a bad time for the poor people. Every man looked for some one to help him, and promised to obey a lord in return for his protection. So there were no free men as there are to-day, who could go and come as they willed and do what they wished. Every one had a superior whom he had to obey.



A Viking warrior with his horned helmet.

Gradually these little kingdoms joined together until they were larger and more powerful. The most important was the Kingdom of the Franks. But across the Rhine in Germany the smaller kingdoms never joined until about seventy years ago ! To-day we talk about nations, and think of English and Dutch, French and German, who each have a different language and a different home country. But in Charlemagne's time and for hundreds of years after, it was not like this.

There were no nations then, but tiny kingdoms.

The chief people throughout the Western World spoke Latin. In some places the poorer people who could not read and write spoke a sort of Latin too. But gradually this language of the poor folk changed in the different countries, until the national language grew up. Thus French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese are all descended from the Latin tongue. But in Germany, which was outside the Roman Empire, and England, which was conquered by many German tribes, the language which grew up was not descended from Latin. English and German came from the same stock, the language spoken by the folk who invaded the land when the Roman Empire fell to pieces; but the English language to-day has many words which came from Latin too.

Now you can see that as the kingdoms grew bigger, and as the people in the kingdoms came to speak a language different from their neighbours, they grew to feel themselves to be a thing apart—a *nation*. But this change took hundreds of years to come about. This time we call the Middle Ages.

During the hundreds of years of the Middle Ages, while this was going on, the leaders all felt they belonged to one body. They could all understand Latin, they were all Christians, they all honoured the Pope in Rome—though sometimes they might fight against him if they wanted some of his land! And from time to time they chose a prince to be

“Emperor,” but they seldom obeyed the Emperor if he wanted them to do anything!

There was one thing which did make these leaders feel united, and that was the great power of Islam. The Christians felt that it was wrong for the Moslems to have Jerusalem, their sacred city, and



Here is a Crusader, you can see the cross he wears on his breast as a badge; behind him rides his page.

so they fought many wars against them which are called the Crusades. They succeeded at first in capturing Jerusalem, but the Moslems were brave men and great fighters, and the Christians were turned out of Palestine again.

These Crusades were terrible affairs. Many men lost their lives and there was much cruelty. But

among the chiefs there was often friendly feeling. Thus Saladin, the Moslem chief, would send presents to the Christian leaders, and even lent his own doctor to heal one when he was sick! Though the Christians could not win the Crusades, they got a lot of good from them although they did not realise it. The rough Crusaders who came back to their homes, brought many of the beautiful things which the Arabs had made with them. Trade grew up between Constantinople and the near East and even with India.

Of course, when the Roman Peace broke down and the barbarians came into the Empire, trade had practically disappeared. Men lived in small villages growing what they wanted for themselves. They even forgot how to use money. Gradually trade began again and money came with it. But any state, any king, and sometimes even a city made its own money. This, of course, was a great nuisance; quite unlike the good old days when the Roman money could be used all over the Empire.

Still, as time went on trade became more and more important. The traders lived in cities, defended by walls, and they often governed themselves and took no notice of the kings or other rulers. Some great cities grew up in the lands we call Belgium and Holland. There the weavers made wool into cloth. Much of the wool came from sheep in England. This trade helped to make the English

people better off, but the merchants in Belgium became very wealthy. Other great cities grew up along the River Rhine, for the Rhine was a great highway along which went ships carrying goods to different parts. But the most famous cities of all were those of Italy. Here Venice and Genoa became powerful states. The merchants were so wealthy they lived like princes : these cities had armies and fleets, and trading stations all over the Eastern Mediterranean.

While all these changes were going on, people were gradually becoming more civilised again and many beautiful buildings were put up. The finest were the churches and great cathedrals. They were built of stone with high roofs often made of carved stone too. The windows were filled with lovely painted glass, and inside there were paintings, and carved woodwork and golden ornaments. The craftsmen who made these things were very skilled, and often went from place to place when they had finished a job.

The Christian monks lived together in monasteries ; they often had schools and spent much of their time copying manuscripts of old books. Later bands of Christian priests were formed to help and teach the poor folk. These men were called the "Brothers," or *Friars*. These Friars lived very simply, and shared all their goods. They preached and taught the poor ; and some of them

helped to start the Universities where students began to learn again the wisdom of the past.



Here is a Friar preaching to the poor folk; you can see a beautiful cathedral behind him.

[DATES : *Jerusalem held by the Crusaders, A.D. 1099-1187.*]

21

HOW THE MONGOLS CONQUERED CHINA

Kublai Khan and Marco Polo

You will remember how the Huns came from the plains of Asia and pushed the German tribes over the borders of the Roman Empire. Now here is a story of another nomad people called the Mongols, and how they founded a great Empire, and set up rulers in China and later in India too.

These Mongols lived on the plains of Asia, riding their horses and looking after their cattle. In summer they would move north to the plains for grass. In winter they would come south to seek shelter from the cold in valleys. They made villages from tents, which they could move easily by lifting them on to ox wagons. When they moved the women and children sat on the wagons and the men rode alongside armed with swords and bows and arrows.

There were many Mongol tribes, and when they met they often fought. Thus the men grew up with a love of fighting and were brave and cruel folk. Then came one man who joined these mixed tribes together, and made them into an army which no one could stop. He was called Jenghis Khan. He had red hair, sharp eyes and a dark, keen face. When Jenghis was only thirteen his father died and all the tribe deserted him. But Jenghis got together a young band of fighters who were called the "raging torrents." Then the tribe came back to him and Jenghis made himself head of all the Mongols. Jenghis loved war. He said that "the greatest pleasure in life is to conquer your enemy, seize their horses and goods, and hear the women crying!" He taught his men to fight in silence, obeying the signals he gave them by flags. The only noise was the roll of drums and the clash of cymbals which was the sign to charge.

Every one now feared the drums of Jenghis Khan. When the Mongols took a city they killed all they found, men, women and children, and burnt the city to the ground !



Jenghis Khan was a cruel man who loved war.

This terrible people began under Jenghis Khan to fight against the settled peoples who lived in cities and were more civilised than they. They attacked China and traitors let them through the Great Wall. So Peking, the chief city, was seized and Northern China conquered by them. From the Chinese the Mongols learned to use gunpowder, and Jenghis Khan got a very clever Chinaman to come and help him rule his Empire and organise his armies.

Then Jenghis turned westward. He marched against Europe because a ruler had slain his messengers. He descended into India and conquered the Punjab, but the Mongols did not stay in India. At last Jenghis died ; but his son went on with the war. He seized the rest of China and then turned round and marched right on into Germany where he won a great battle. He conquered Iraq and destroyed Bagdad.

When this son died, the Mongols went home to their great City of Karakorum—*Black Sands*, to choose a successor, and they never came back to attack Europe again. And now Jenghis Khan's great Empire began to break up. His grandson, called Kublai Khan, was chosen as ruler of the Mongols. But he preferred to live in Peking and rule over the Chinese Empire. He let his brothers and nephews rule the other parts of the Mongol Empire as they liked.

So Kublai Khan lived in Peking and became more and more fond of the wonderful civilisation which the Chinese had built up for themselves. He almost forgot that he was the grandson of a destroying Mongol. He built a great palace and surrounded himself with servants and soldiers. When he fed, thousands sat down to meat with him. In summer he went to a special palace for the boating and fishing which he much enjoyed.

At this time the Chinese were the most civilised

people in the world. They had beautiful houses and lovely silks to wear and use as hangings. They had discovered how to print and their sacred books and many others had been printed for many years. Their artists could paint the most lovely pictures, and their craftsmen made beautiful pottery. The Chinese themselves paid the greatest honour to their ancestors, and always took advice and obeyed the



Kublai Khan built a great palace to live in.

head of the family on earth. They paid much attention to politeness, and were especially careful to behave correctly when they met or spoke to any one.

All these things seemed very strange and interesting to a visitor who came to Kublai Khan's court at this time. He was a young Italian merchant, named Marco Polo, who travelled all the way across Asia to visit China and to trade with it. Kublai Khan liked him and made him one of his

officers and often sent him on voyages of inquiry or to govern cities. Marco Polo knew that Kublai Khan loved to hear of different things, so wherever he went he made notes to tell the Great Khan. After he came back to Italy he wrote a book to tell



The Italian visitor Marco Polo talking to Kublai Khan; you can see Marco Polo's badge, the three black ravens on the shield, behind him.

the Italians all about the wonderful country he had visited. And the people of his own land laughed at him. Who could believe that the Chinese burnt black stones in the fires, or used paper for money? For the Italians of that day had never heard of coal or of bank notes!

Marco Polo came back to Italy not by land but

by sea. He suggested that a Chinese princess who was journeying to marry the Khan of Persia should go by sea, and so he was put in charge of the fleet which sailed round by Singapore. After that Marco Polo went back to Italy. And Kublai Khan and his successors ruled in China for many years. They are called the Yuan Dynasty.

[DATES : *Kublai Khan*, A.D. 1260-1294.]

22

THE MONGOLS IN INDIA

After the Great Khan died the Empire of the Mongols outside China split up under different rulers. In India men knew of the Mongols as a fierce people who lived beyond the Himalayas, and who sometimes came through the mountain passes to fight against the Indians who lived in the plains.

At last, about 200 years after the days of Jenghis Khan, the Mongols came into India and stayed there. Their leader was called Baber, and he was descended from Jenghis Khan. He dreamed of making himself an empire as his famous ancestor had done. So he marched into the plains and defeated an Indian King. This King had an army

with many elephants and men, but Baber had good horses and he had guns which he had learnt to use from the Europeans. Then Baber called himself Emperor, and fought more battles to hold his power in Northern India.¹



Humayun had to flee away.

After Baber died his son, Humayun, had to flee away from his enemies, and for a long time the Mongol power was weak, therefore there were many who wished to make themselves rulers. But at last Baber's grandson, Akbar, came to the throne, and he made himself ruler of the whole of Northern India.

Akbar was a very great man. He was only thirteen when he became King, and at first he was helped by a Regent. But when he was seventeen years old, he sent the Regent off on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and became the real ruler. For the rest

¹ The Empire which the Mongols founded in India is generally called *The Mogul Empire*, but Mongol and Mogul mean the same thing.

of his life, although he had many able ministers, Akbar's word was law.

Now all through Akbar's reign there were wars going on, to extend his Empire, or to punish rebels, but the whole of the North of India obeyed him. Akbar made peace and good government within his Empire. He divided the country into provinces, and put rulers to govern them. He did not merely collect the taxes, but made good laws, and saw that crime and evil-doing were properly punished.

Akbar had a very great ideal. He did not think of himself as a conqueror ruling a defeated people, but as the governor of a nation. Though himself a Muslim, many of his best friends were Hindus, and he married Hindu wives. He allowed complete religious freedom in his Empire, for he knew that there were good men among Muslims and Hindus as well as among men of other religions, and he wanted all men to be his loyal subjects.

As he got older he thought more about religious matters, and tried to found a new religion which all men might agree to accept. But here he failed and men would not agree. One of his best friends, a Hindu, had written :

O God in every temple I see people that seek Thee and
in every language I hear spoken, people praise Thee !
If it be a mosque, people murmur the midday prayer, and
if it be a Christian church, people ring the bell for love
of Thee.

Sometimes I frequent the Christian cloister, and sometimes
the mosque,
But it is Thee whom I search from temple to temple !

This is the idea which Akbar had in his mind when he tried to get all men to join his new religion.

Akbar had many friends and they used to meet each Thursday night, in his palace in Fatepur Sikri, to talk about wisdom and other things. For Akbar was a learned man, although he could not read or write. As a boy he had been lazy and played truant from school. When a man he always had to have things read to him, but he had a wonderful memory, and he collected a huge library



Here is the Emperor Akbar sitting smoking a pipe, while a servant reads aloud to him.

of which he was very proud. The books were written by hand by the most learned writers and illustrated by famous artists. Some of these books still exist and we can see how beautiful they were.

Akbar himself was a kindly man who did not delight in cruelty. Sometimes the Mongol fierceness would flash out, but it soon died down. This is what a Christian visitor recorded : " The Prince rarely loses his temper, but if he should fall into a passion, it is impossible to say how great his wrath will be, but . . . his wrath is short-lived, quickly passing from him." At times he drank too much and he loved opium smoking. But he was a great man, one of the finest rulers India ever had.

His son, Jehangir, was unworthy of him, and became a drunkard. And though the Mongol Empire grew from time to time and even extended its power, its best days were gone, and the Europeans were beginning to come to India.

[DATES : *Akbar*, A.D. 1555-1605.]

23

HOW MEN IN EUROPE FOUND OUT THE WISDOM OF THE PAST

The "New Learning"

Now we must go back a little in our story, and tell how in Europe there came a great stirring in

men's minds which made people think about new things, and in new ways. It was like a great awakening from sleep, and it is sometimes called the Renaissance—or the New Birth.

For some time men in Italy and elsewhere had begun to study again the wisdom of the past ; and now some other learned men came to help them. About fifty years before Baber came down into India, the city of Constantinople was captured by the Turks. These people had been pushed forward by the Mongols of Jenghis Khan, and had made themselves an Empire in Asia Minor ; now they seized the ancient city of Constantinople where men still read Greek and remembered the wisdom of their ancestors. At once there began a great movement from the conquered city. Scholars left their studies and took with them their libraries. Many crossed to Italy and were welcomed by the learned men of the great cities there.

The Italians began once again to hear of the doings and the thought of the ancient Greeks. All this had long been forgotten, and men had thought of little except what the Church had told them. Now men learnt Greek again, and read the ancient books. They translated them also into Latin, and wrote new books about them.

Every one became interested in this new learning. In the chief cities of Italy the Universities grew up quickly, and men came from all over Europe to

study there. Everything was altered. Painters saw the beauties of Greek art and painted better and more beautifully than before. Architects began to study the fine buildings of the ancient Greeks, and to build houses and churches in a new style which borrowed much from the Greek temples. Sculptors, too, began to make lovely statues while metal workers produced new forms of beauty.



Men had thought of little except what the Church had told them.

Everything was beautiful, and men were glad to be alive, and tried to show it by doing many things at once. People were not "specialists" in those days. They led a gay and happy life, eating, drinking, dancing : they learned music and medicine, they studied the stars, they wrote poetry in Greek and Latin. The same man would do all these things. Indeed it was a wonder that a man had time for all there was to do.

One of the greatest men was Leonardo da Vinci.

He was a painter whose pictures are still very famous. He could sing and play musical instruments. He was an excellent mathematician and he thought out how to make steam engines, and



Here is Leonardo da Vinci at work painting a picture.

flying machines and parachutes ! He has left us drawings showing how these things could be made. But, though Leonardo might think of an aeroplane, he could not really make one ; to do that, much knowledge of machines was needed. And men did not get such knowledge until near our own time.

One of the things which men were most interested in at that time was astronomy. Most men still

believed that the earth was the centre of the universe, and that the sun went round the earth. But a clever Pole called Copernicus, who came to Italy to study medicine, found out that this was wrong. He knew that the earth went round the sun, and he wrote a book to prove it. This book was printed just after he died and learned men were very anxious to read it.

Meanwhile another Italian called Galileo was studying the same problem. This boy wanted to be a painter, and painted very well, but his father thought he could make more money as a doctor. He sent him to study medicine at the University. One day young Galileo overheard a master teaching the pages at the Court a lesson in geometry. He was so thrilled that he gave up learning medicine and studied mathematics until he became a professor. Then he taught the people that many things they had believed were wrong. He climbed up a tower and dropped two objects—of different weights but each of the same size—and showed that they reached the ground together. Men were surprised, for they thought the heavier thing would fall more quickly. He chanced to see a lamp swaying in a church, and thought of the idea of a pendulum; and later he showed how a pendulum could be used to make a clock keep good time.

But he was most interested in astronomy, and studied the stars every night. He thought out how

to make a telescope and then he began to watch the skies. He found many things that no one knew before. That there were many stars which you could not see with the naked eye : that the Milky Way was really a lot of stars and that the moon had mountains on it. Then he discovered that the planet Jupiter had little moons going round it, as our moon goes round the earth.



This is Galileo thinking of his new discoveries ; the men behind are whispering and wondering about him.

Later he wrote a long book proving that the earth turned round, thus making day and night ; and that it went round the sun. But though learned men were busy studying these new ideas, some men feared that they were against the teachings of religion. And these men managed to get Galileo into trouble. He had to go on his knees and say he did not really believe what he had written, and

he had to live quietly and not write any more for the rest of his life !

Nothing could stop these new ideas. Men had discovered how to print books instead of copying them by hand. And everywhere books were being printed in thousands, and the whole of Europe was waking up.

[DATES : *Constantinople taken*, A.D. 1453 ; *Leonardo da Vinci*, 1452-1519 ; *Galileo*, 1562-1642.]

24

THE DISCOVERIES

While men were studying the new learning in Italy, other men began to explore the seas. They soon made discoveries far more wonderful than any one had dreamed of ! For a very long time there had been trade between India and Europe. The spices of the East, and beautiful cloth, and carpets and other goods were brought by Arab ships to the Persian gulf or the Red Sea and then by caravan across to the Mediterranean. Then Italian merchants bought them, and sold them again all over Europe. Sometimes a brave adventurer, such as Marco Polo, would go by land to China, or to India ; but generally the Italian merchants bought their goods from the caravans at the sea ports of the Mediterranean.

Then the Turks began to attack the caravans, and steal the goods, and so men wanted to find a new and safer way to India. Just at this time the New Learning was helping sailors very much. Wise men who studied the stars learned to make new instruments by which the sailors could guide their ships. Men learned how to make a good compass. Then the sailor could know which way he was going, even when he was out of sight of land and could not see the sun or stars.

Other men tried to make better maps ; they put down all they had learned from Marco Polo and such travellers, and added all the knowledge of the sea captains. Then they studied the wisdom of the ancient Greeks, and began again to think the world was round instead of flat. So they made new maps and even globes to show these things. It would amuse you to see the sort of map men had before the days of the New Learning, with Rome at the centre of a flat world ! Then you would see how much better the new maps were. But there was one mistake. No one knew about America ; at the other side of the Atlantic they showed Cathay, or China !

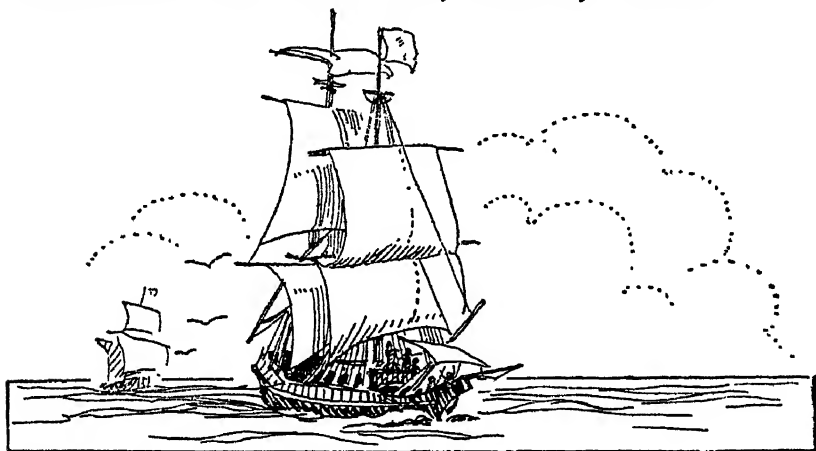
The Portuguese were the greatest voyagers. Their country lay on the Atlantic far away from the Italian cities. Their king had recently helped to drive the Moslems out of Spain, and even seized a Moorish Kingdom in North Africa. Now the

Portuguese decided they would sail southwards and explore the continent of Africa. A famous prince, named Henry the Navigator, built a beautiful palace overlooking the sea, and year after year he sent out ships to make voyages of discovery. He wrote letters to the cleverest men all over Europe. From them he got the newest maps, and all the information he could to help his sailors. In 1486 a Portuguese captain called Bartholomew Diaz came to the southern part of Africa. He had terrible weather and called it the Cape of Storms. But the Portuguese King renamed it Cape of Good Hope.

Now there was an Italian sailor called Christopher Columbus, who had been thinking a lot about these voyages. He had seen the new maps, and talked with many sailors. He felt sure that if he sailed right out across the Atlantic he could reach India, and this he thought would be easier than going round Africa.

He came to Portugal to get ships and money, but the King of Portugal was not interested. The King of England would not help him either. Then the King of Spain heard about Columbus. He made him Admiral and gave him ships. So one day Columbus started with three small ships on his famous voyage. His men were very frightened of sailing right away into the unknown sea, but Columbus was very brave and persuaded them to go on. At last one morning, after nine weeks

voyaging, a lookout saw a light. Next day Columbus found he had reached a small island. He was very happy and felt sure he had reached India. Columbus left some men and went back to Spain. He was given many rewards, and sent out on other great voyages. When he died he still believed that he had found a new way to India. But he had discovered a new continent, *America*, instead!



Here is Columbus' ship getting near to America.

Now when the news of Columbus' voyage came back to Portugal the king began to send his sailors on voyages again, and about five years later a Portuguese fleet with Vasco da Gama sailed round the Cape of Good Hope and reached Calicut in India. The Arab traders were very angry to see the Portuguese ships, because they wanted to keep all the trade to themselves. They tried hard to

drive them away. But the Portuguese sent out other fleets and began to settle at Goa in India.

They went further East too. They settled in the Spice Islands, which are now called the Dutch East Indies, and made a trading station on the island of Macao in China. One of their most important ports was Malacca, where the ruins of the church built by their great Governor Albuquerque can still be seen.

Of course the Portuguese would have liked to keep this new way to India a secret to themselves. But they could not do it. Soon the other nations, English, French and Dutch, sent their ships too. And all these nations built trading stations in India, and further East.

Now you can see what a great change these discoveries had made. Before that time the people of Europe had heard strange stories about India and China, and had got their goods through many hands. Now there were settlements of European people in the East. Trading ships went to and fro each year, and men had soon a much better idea of the shape and size of the earth, and of the different peoples who lived on it too.

[DATES: *Diaz discovers Cape of Good Hope*, 1486; *Columbus discovers America*, 1492; *Da Gama reaches India*, 1498.]

CHARLES THE FIFTH AND THE REFORMATION

When Columbus discovered America the King of Spain claimed all the lands for himself. He sent out governors and soldiers who soon made a large part of America obey him. They conquered Mexico, and there they found a strange civilisation, with much wealth. But they treated the people very cruelly, burning the cities and seizing all the treasures to send back to Spain. Other Spaniards crossed to the Pacific and seized first Chile and then Peru. The Spaniards found very rich gold and silver mines. They forced the natives to work for them and each year they sent back ships, loaded with treasure, to their King. When they found that many of the natives had died in the terrible mines and with fever, they began to use Negro slaves from Africa instead.

Now you can understand that all this gold made Spain very wealthy. The Spaniards could buy things from other countries, and many people came to Spain to try to share this wealth. But other nations were jealous and wanted to have some of the gold mines too. So they sent their sailors to America as well. The English and the French and the Dutch ships began to sail to the

West Indies and even to attack the Spanish ships and steal their wealth. The Spaniards called the English pirates and after some time there was war between the countries.



The Spaniards forced the natives to work very hard for them.

At this time there was a famous King in Spain. He was called Charles the Fifth and he ruled over the whole of Spain, for the little kingdoms, which had existed before, had been joined by marriage. But he ruled other lands as well. He had inherited the lands we now call Holland and Belgium—which were then called the Low Countries because they were flat and low-lying—and he had lands in Germany also. Above all this, Charles was

chosen as "Holy Roman Emperor." So you can see what a great and important prince he was.

But he was not happy. He had far too much to do. He might have ruled one country well, but he could not look after them all properly. Then there was another trouble. The study of the New Learning had made men think much more for themselves than before. People began to ask all sorts of questions. They often asked questions about things which they had always taken for granted before. They did not do a thing just because it had been done, but wanted to know why?

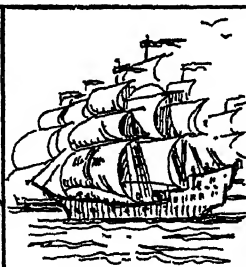
These questions often led to new knowledge : they helped men to find out the western world, they helped Galileo to discover the stars. But when men began asking questions about their religion there was trouble.

The chief trouble came in Germany, where a priest called Martin Luther began to ask a lot of questions about the teachings of the Church. After a while he even began to say that some of these teachings were wrong, and that much that people had believed was not true. This made many of the chief rulers of the Church very angry, but they could not punish Luther because his prince in Germany protected him. Gradually many of the princes in Germany sided with Luther, and they

broke away from the old Church and would not obey the Pope at Rome. This change was called the Reformation.

Now Charles, although he was Emperor, had no real power in Germany : he could not stop this Reformation, although he would have liked to do so. But when the movement spread to one of his own lands he was very angry. In the Low Countries many of the people followed the new ideas in religion. They were a very independent people ; their rich cities were governed by the chief merchants, and often did not pay much attention to the orders of the ruler. Charles did his best to stop the movement, but could not do so. At last in despair he gave up all his powers, and went into a monastery to live in quiet for the rest of his life.

After this the Low Countries split in two. Philip, who was now King of Spain, tried to force the people to obey him. But Queen Elizabeth of England

**ELIZABETH****PHILIP II**

It was Philip II of Spain who sent the *Armada* to fight against England, and Queen Elizabeth's sailors defeated it.

helped them, for she hated Spain, and the English people had joined the Reformation too. So at last the northern part of the Low Countries split off and became independent. We call this country Holland and its inhabitants, the Dutch, were great sailors and merchants. They soon became very important in the East Indies where they seized the spice islands.

In Germany too there was a long war, which lasted for thirty years, between the two sides. Neither could win, so part of Germany remained in the old religion and part joined the new, and these people were called Protestants. Thus the Reformation, which grew from the New Learning, split Europe into parts—a Catholic and a Protestant. And for a long time these parts hated each other and were ready to go to war. But later they forgot their hatred because they quarrelled about other things, and chiefly about trade.

[DATES : *Martin Luther*, 1483-1546 ; *Charles the Fifth*, 1519-1556 ; *Philip of Spain*, 1556-1598.]

26

LOUIS THE FOURTEENTH AND THE GREATNESS OF FRANCE

In the last few chapters we have been reading about different countries and their Kings—Portugal,

Spain, England and others. For a long time in Europe there had been an idea that all Christians belonged to one state, and should obey the Holy Roman Emperor. Of course, they did not obey him, but that was the idea. By the time of Charles the Fifth, even the idea had almost disappeared. Instead there had grown up in Europe several strong nations, which were ruled over by Kings. The greatest of these was France. Then there was Spain, with her colonies in America, Portugal with her colonies in the East Indies, and England just beginning to challenge Spain in America and Portugal in the East. Neither Germany nor Italy was a united country. They were still split up into many different little states ruled by princes and dukes, and free cities. For they still played with the idea of the Holy Roman Empire.

Now the greatest King France ever had was Louis the Fourteenth. He lived about eighty years after Charles the Fifth, and he came to the throne after his country had been torn with civil wars. But although Louis was only five years old when he became King, he soon managed to make himself very powerful, and forced everybody in the land to obey him.

Louis wanted to make his country bigger. He wanted France to have the River Rhine as its frontier, and he fought many wars to get this boundary. He did add much to his kingdom, but

he could not get all he wanted. For the Dutch especially were brave in defending their homeland, and the English helped them, because the English did not want to see the French nation too powerful or too strong at sea.



This is a picture of Louis XIV when he was still a boy ; you can see his courtiers and ministers bowing before him.

Louis paid much attention to his army. He trained it very carefully until it was the best in the world. He built many ships and had a fine navy too. But all these wars cost a lot of money. Louis had very able ministers to help him, and they paid for his wars by raising the taxes. But this was bad for the poor people, and bad for the merchants and traders too.

Although Louis made France the greatest nation of his time, and made his people so proud of their country, he really did her a bad turn. For the people became poor because of the taxes, and the trade in different cities simply disappeared.

Louis himself was very proud of his appearance and of the honour due to him as King. He wore wonderful clothes and a wig over his hair. When he got up in the morning or went to bed at night he had the chief men of the land to wait upon him. Each in turn came to serve him. He built a magnificent palace at Versailles near Paris in which to live, and he had all the chief nobles from the whole of France to come and live there and visit him. Life at this court was very gay, and all the nobles tried to dress in the most beautiful clothes and have the finest coaches. So the nobles forced their people to pay them much money.



The French peasants were very poor ; they had to work very hard and often had not enough to eat.

The peasants became poorer and poorer ; often they had hardly enough to eat or to wear. They lived in poor huts, and their masters hardly knew how they existed, and they did not care, for they looked down on the poor, and spoke of them as " dogs." But a terrible day of reckoning was to come.

When at last Louis died, at seventy-seven years old, he left a country which was really ruined by wars. He left, too, peasants who were cheated by the nobles ; and after about seventy years, France got rid of her King and became a Republic.

[DATES : *Louis the Fourteenth ruled France from 1661 to 1715.*]

27

THE STORY OF NAPOLEON

For more than seventy years after Louis the Fourteenth died, France was ruled by his descendants. They had much power but ruled the country badly. They fought wars against England and other countries and were unsuccessful. The French lost lands in India to the English, and lost Canada also. All these wars cost lots of money, and the poor peasants in France had to pay so many taxes that they were literally starving. At last men became desperate. In 1789 the King had to call a Parliament, which had not met for 150 years, to give him

money. But the Parliament at once began to alter the way the country was governed.

Then the Kings of other countries, urged by the Frenchmen who hated the Parliament and had fled from the country, began to collect armies, and to fight against France. They said they were coming to rescue the King from his Parliament. Of course, this only made the French very angry. They became so angry and excited that they cut off the King's head ! One of them declared, " We cast down the head of a King as a challenge to the other Kings of Europe ! "

France now became a Republic, but it was really ruled by a group of violent men in Paris. They forced all men to obey them and executed any whom they feared or distrusted. The people came gladly to fight the enemy and everybody was surprised when these untrained men beat the regular soldiers !

Now these changes were not brought about just by accident. Men had been thinking for a long time about the way countries should be governed. One great Frenchman, called Rousseau, had written a book in which he said that originally people had gathered together to choose a King, and that Kings should hold power only if they continued to do what the people wanted ! The new French Parliament passed many laws, doing away with the rights of the nobles. They tried to make all men equal and

to give them equal opportunities. They chose as their watchword, "Freedom, Equality and Brotherhood." And they proclaimed a great crusade against all the countries ruled by Kings. They called on all people to drive out their Kings, and promised to march and help them !

This meant, of course, that these countries regarded France as an enemy. And it would have been bad for France if she had not had a great soldier to lead her. But just at this time a young officer called Napoleon Bonaparte came to the front. He was a poor man of good family, from the French Island of Corsica. But on account of the new rules which allowed clever men to rise to the top, Napoleon was soon in chief command of all the French armies.

By this time the Republic in France came to an end. The French people were tired of violent men. They only wanted a strong man to rule them. Napoleon saw this, and so he was able to make himself Emperor of France. So the young soldier from Corsica was ruler of all France, and lived in the old King's palace at Versailles !

Napoleon was the greatest soldier of history. His men loved him and would do anything for him. They watched eagerly to see this little man in his big soldier's coat, with his cocked hat pulled down over his eyes, when he passed by. And they called him affectionately "the little corporal,"

thinking that he had once been a common soldier as they were. Soon Napoleon's army was the finest in Europe. He seized Italy, and Germany too, and made these countries obey him. In Germany his chief enemy was the State of Prussia, a land in the northern part of Germany which had brave soldiers and very able kings. The Prussians hated



The French soldiers cheering their general, Napoleon.

the French very much for the way Napoleon treated them.

There was one country Napoleon could not beat and that was England. For England had the biggest fleet in the world. Even when Napoleon built ships, the English admirals, led by Nelson, defeated them ! But the English could not attack the French army by land. Men said it was like the battle between the whale and the elephant !

So then Napoleon began to fight the English in another way. He told the French not to buy any English goods, and he then forced the other countries of Europe to do the same. England hit back by sending her ships to watch the French ports, and to prevent other ships from trading there at all !



Nelson.

At last Napoleon decided to make the great Empire of Russia join his plan for not trading with England. When Russia refused, Napoleon led his army to Moscow, the capital of Russia. But the way was long, the winter bitterly cold, and the Russians left Moscow and set it on fire. Napoleon had to go back to France and many of his men died frozen on the way. Then all the countries Napoleon had conquered rose against him. They were led by Prussia who wanted her revenge. At a great "Battle of the Nations," the French were defeated,

and soon after Napoleon fought his last battle against the English and Prussians at Waterloo. He was sent away to live on the Island of St. Helena.

We must not think that Napoleon was only a soldier. He was a great ruler too, and governed the whole of France. He divided the country into departments and put rulers to look after them. He made many new laws and collected them all into great codes. Later France became a Republic, governed by a Parliament and a President who is changed every five years. But many of the laws which Napoleon made are still obeyed.

[DATES : *French Revolution begins*, 1789 ; *Napoleon Emperor*, 1804 ; *Battle of Waterloo*, 1815.]

28

THE GROWTH OF GERMANY

Germany is one of the greatest nations of the world to-day. Yet she was not joined into one state under a single ruler until about seventy years ago. This was because of the old idea of the Holy Roman Empire. For a long time it misled the German princes, who quarrelled among themselves as to who should be chosen "Emperor." So even though the Germans were all of the same blood, spoke the same language, and enjoyed the same sort of art and music, they were still split up into hundreds of little

states ruled over by different princes, who had armies of their own and often fought against each other.

One of the most important States was Prussia with its capital at Berlin. It lies in the north of Germany and has a sandy soil, and was a very poor country. Yet it had some very ambitious kings.



Frederick the Great with his soldiers.

They wanted to make their state rich and powerful. They spent all their time and money in getting fine soldiers. One of them went almost mad to get tall men, and had a regiment of giants ! The Prussians always look back to Frederick the Great who saved the country and fought both against France and Russia. He was a friend of the English. But

though the Prussians spent so much time in fighting, they were interested in other things too. Their kings encouraged learned men to come and live in Berlin, for they wanted their city to be great and famous.

Now you will remember how Napoleon seized Germany and forced the Germans to obey him. He marched into Berlin as a conqueror and the Prussians hated him for it. They waited for their revenge. Napoleon would not let them have a big army : so the Prussian Government only let their soldiers stay in the army for a year or so, and then made them leave and trained others. In this way the Prussians had far more good soldiers than the French meant them to have. So when Napoleon had to come back from Russia the Prussians were his greatest enemies. At last the conquering armies marched into Paris ! This time the French were the defeated nation. And the Prussians were so angry with them that they wanted to destroy the beautiful buildings there. The English general, Wellington, had to put English soldiers as guards to see that they did not do this.

We must understand this hate and rivalry between the French and Prussians if we want to understand what happened later. For after the defeat of Napoleon the Germans went home again, and the different kings and princes still ruled their countries. There was no unity. But in Prussia great men arose

who wanted to make Germany into one state, and felt that the only way to do this was to make Prussia supreme.

The greatest of these men was Prince Bismarck. He was the Chief Minister of Prussia for the old King Wilhelm the Fourth. But Bismarck was really the ruler of the land. He saw that it would be difficult to get the other princes to agree to join in one state, unless he could arrange to do something which would awaken their ambition. So when a quarrel arose between France and Germany, Bismarck was very glad and did all he could to make war break out. War came in 1870, and the French were utterly defeated. The Germans had their plans all ready, and within a short time the Prussians and their friends were in Paris once again.

Then came Bismarck's chance. He arranged his meeting in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles near Paris. All the German princes cheered and saluted the old King of Prussia, Wilhelm the Fourth, as "Emperor of Germany." Bismarck's dream had come true: the German Empire had come to be. And the German people were soon joined in one powerful State.

Now I want to tell you something about the other work of Germany. For we have heard enough about armies and fighting. The Germans were great students as well as fine soldiers. They have produced many of the finest philosophers and

musicians in the world. But the Germans turned their special attention to science and to chemistry. Bismarck encouraged them in this. Soon the German chemists began to make discoveries about the way in which things are built up. Then the manufacturers began to use these discoveries. New drugs were made, and new chemicals for agriculture and industry, new sorts of steel specially useful for making machines, and new kinds of explosives, too. The Germans became one of the greatest industrial nations of the world. Their goods were sent everywhere, and the German traders went into all parts of the world. But the Germans did not feel satisfied. They thought that a great nation such as they should have colonies overseas. Of course the reason why they had no colonies was because, when other countries had been exploring and settling new lands, the Germans had been split up into many small states fighting amongst themselves. Some land was given to the Germans in Africa but they wanted more. They began to build a big fleet, and this made the English angry. France, too, was frightened that the new and powerful Germany would attack her again, and made friends with Russia.

But Germany made her friends in central Europe. And so the horrible business went on, until some forty years ago, in 1914, the First World War began ; a struggle between Germany and her

friends and France and England and their friends. After four years, in 1918, Germany was defeated, her Emperor lost his throne and the country was ruined.

As the Germans recovered their strength, their thoughts turned to revenge. The Nazi party under Hitler gained power and built up a great army and air force and persecuted the Jews and all Germans who did not agree with him. This new Germany seized its smaller neighbours one by one until in 1939 England and France were once more at war with her.

After a short while Italy joined Germany, and France was defeated. For a year Britain and the Commonwealth stood alone as the free champions of liberty. Then Germany turned against Russia, and when Japan attacked America, the war spread throughout the world. In the end Germany was worn down and utterly defeated: her great cities were bombed and the country seemed desolate.

Germany was divided into two parts: the East controlled by the Russians, and the West where the British, the French and Americans occupied the country. To-day the Germans are rebuilding their country with great energy and they long for the day when the people will be reunited.

[DATES : *Frederick the Great*, 1740-1786 ; *War between France and Germany*, 1870 ; *First World War*, 1914-1918 ; *Second World War*, 1939-1945.]

RUSSIA

· If you look at a map you will see what a large country Russia is. It stretches half round the world, from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, where it meets China, and is only 40 miles from America. Most of the country is a flat plain with great rivers and huge forests : it is terribly cold in winter. On these great plains many people have lived from very early times : you have heard in this book some of the stories of how the nomads left the plain and came down to live in the settled countries. But to-day much of the plain is settled land, and it is farmed by peasants. It is very strongly ruled from the capital at Moscow.

The rulers of the Russians used to be called Czars. One of the most famous was called Peter the Great. He lived about 200 years ago, and came to England to study. His country then was very wild, and he wanted to take back ideas from the most civilised countries of Europe. Peter believed that the best way to learn was to do things for himself. So he worked for some time with the other English workers in the shipyards building ships. Then he went back, and had a new navy built for himself.

Peter and his successors were very strong rulers. They were often very cruel to their people. Their wish was law, for they had no Parliament, and no one to check their wishes. And they spent much of their time extending their country. In this way Russia spread right across Asia to the Pacific, down



Peter the Great learning to build ships in a shipyard near London.

south to the Himalayas, and west to the borders of Germany.

After the French Revolution and the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, people in Europe began to pay much more attention to what was going on in Russia. Before that they hardly knew anything about that country : it was far away and it was

very difficult to reach ; the people spoke a strange language. But the Czar Alexander, who helped to defeat Napoleon, was a very clever and ambitious man. He came to visit the other Kings in Europe. He stayed in Berlin, he visited Paris, and he went to London. The English Government arranged a great reception for him. There were parades of soldiers, fireworks, a great dinner and much rejoicing. The Czar was much impressed, and went back to Russia feeling very fond of the English.

But soon there was trouble. The Russians were anxious to seize Constantinople. They wanted to take it away from the Turks, so that they could get their ships into the Mediterranean. The English were jealous, and did not like this. So the English helped the Turks and the French supported them too. Then the English were annoyed because the Russians seemed ever to be getting nearer to India. The English had gained power in India, and were ruling the country in peace. But the English knew well that India had often been invaded through the mountain passes. Now they feared that once again invaders would come to India through the passes, and that these invaders would be the Russians ! So England and Russia were not friends.

The Russians had other troubles. Their people were mainly peasants, living in small villages, very ignorant and poor. Different Czars had tried to better their lot and had in part succeeded. But

the peasants were still poor and ignorant and dissatisfied. Then in the towns the educated men, the students at the universities who had read their history and knew what was going on in France and England, wanted to share in the government of their



Most of the people in Russia were peasants who lived in the country and farmed the land.

country. But the Czar would not give way, and so there was rioting and much blood was shed.

Meanwhile, in the Far East, Russia and Japan had come to blows. Japan was jealous because Russia would not let her hold land on the mainland in Manchuria. So Japan made friends with England and quarrelled with Russia. In 1905 Russia was defeated.

Now all these troubles came to a head in the

First World War. The Russian Czar was a poor, weak man—far too weak to govern his great country. The Russian armies, fighting as friends of the French and English against the Germans, were badly fed and armed and often defeated. At last they could bear it no more. A revolution began ; the Czar was murdered and a party called the Bolsheviks came into power. Very many were killed who opposed them. At first they abolished the Russian Church and would not allow private persons to own land and property. This system which they started is called “communism.”

The way the Communists forced men to do what they were ordered made many people hate them. But they did much good for their country too. They improved education and people's health. They started many new factories and made people proud of their country. So when the Germans suddenly attacked Russia in 1941 they found a brave and united people. After the war the Russians began to extend their power over their neighbours. Europe was divided into two camps, the Russians in the East and the Western powers in alliance with the U.S.A. Between the two groups there is practically no trade, but fear and suspicion which is called the “cold war.”

[DATES : *Peter the Great*, 1682–1725 ; *Czar Alexander I*, 1801–1825 ; *War against Japan*, 1904–5 ; *Russian Revolution*, 1917.]

JAPAN WAKES UP

The people of Japan live away in their islands in the Far East. They are very hard-working and have a great respect for their past, and especially



The Japanese are very hard-working.

for the doings of their ancestors. For a very long time they were happy to be left alone, and to live by themselves. They did not want to be disturbed by other countries. Even when the people of Europe had many trading settlements in China, whence they bought tea and ginger and chinaware, and other things, they did not trade much with Japan.

Now as the United States of America grew into a great nation they were not content with this. American trading ships were sailing all over the

Pacific, and American merchants wanted to find new places to sell their goods and make money. They wanted to sell them to Japan, and this led to quarrels. So the Americans sent some warships, and forced the Japanese to allow American merchants to trade in that country. This meant that other nations, such as the English, came and began to trade too.

No one had any idea what a great change this would mean. But the Japanese thought that if the Western nations had forced them to receive their goods, they might as well make the best of it. They therefore decided to learn all they could of Western ideas ; just as Peter the Great came from Russia to England, so Japanese students came too. But instead of coming one by one they came in thousands, and to all the countries of Europe and to the United States also. Soon the Japanese were able to study in their own country the wisdom of the Western peoples. New universities and schools were built, and the Japanese were particularly interested in science, engineering and medicine.

The Japanese also altered the way their country was governed. They started a Parliament like those in Europe. They built a fleet after the English pattern, and remade their army on the German model. And they were a terrible fighting people, for the Japanese regarded it as the greatest honour to die for their country.

While this was going on, China was still like Japan had been before the Americans interfered. The Japanese wanted more land for their people to live in. They quarrelled with the Chinese and fought and defeated them. But the Russians stepped in and forced the Japanese to leave the mainland. For the Russians were jealous of the Japanese and wanted the land for themselves. So the Japanese hated the Russians. They waited and built a bigger fleet ; they made an alliance with the English so that no one should interfere with them. And then when they were ready, they fought against the Russians and defeated them completely. Every one was astonished because this was the first time that an Eastern people had defeated a Western power in war.

The Japanese got Port Arthur and Korea. Later, in the First World War, Japan joined the English and French against Germany, but she later started a war against China and made friends with Nazi Germany.

Even more important than the new army and fleet of Japan were the new factories. Japanese manufacturers came to England and studied the cotton mills in Lancashire, and then went back and built mills of their own. They made factories for all sorts of goods. Now the Japanese work for very long hours, for little pay, and they feed mainly on rice. This means that their goods cost little to produce.

So Japanese goods were sold in all parts of the world at prices far less than those of goods from England and other such countries. This was very serious for older manufacturing countries, and they put duties on the Japanese goods. Many countries were frightened of the Japanese competition and alarmed at her violent ambitions in the Far East. Then in 1941 Japan thought she had a chance to seize power in the whole of East Asia. She made a sudden attack on the U.S.A. fleet at Pearl Harbour, and Britain and the U.S.A. declared war on Japan. At first, the Jap forces were very successful. They took the Philippines, Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, and even threatened to invade Australia. Then they were held, and gradually pushed back until they were forced to surrender. Their final defeat was brought about by the use of the atom bomb ; a new power which everyone hopes can now be used for peaceful purposes instead of for war.

[DATE : *United States forces Japan to trade*, 1854.]

31

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States of America is one of the youngest nations of the world. It is only just over 300 years ago that the first settlers went from

England to live in the new country of North America. Gradually thirteen English colonies grew up there ; and then 170 years ago they quarrelled with England and broke away from her, and joined together to form the "United States." Now at that time these people lived along a narrow strip of coastland between the mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. Beyond the mountains lay vast plains which were very good for farmlands. And far beyond them were the great Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.



A Red Indian chief.

Of course the people of the U.S.A. began quickly to spread into this land. There were a few American Indians hunting in the woods and on the plains, but chiefly the land was empty. As new settlers came so new states were made. But there was one great quarrel which had to be settled before the U.S.A.

could become a great nation. In the Southern States the climate was hot, and the farmers had African Negroes as slaves. Now many men began to feel that it was wicked to have slaves. They wished to free them. But the farmers wanted to keep their slaves. At last, in 1860, the Southern States broke away from the Union, because they feared that they would be forced to give up their slaves. Then there was civil war. The North was guided by a great President, Abraham Lincoln,



This is Abraham Lincoln.

and the South was finally defeated. Then a new law was made that a State, once a member of the Union, could never leave. And all the slaves were

freed. So to-day in America there are numbers of Negroes. They are free citizens of the States. But in the South there is still much ill-feeling towards the whole of the Negroes.

There are many other different peoples in America too. For during the nineteenth century there was an immense incoming of peoples to the U.S.A. from Europe. Irish came and Russians, too, trying to get away from the countries of their birth. Then there came Germans, Poles and Italians : even to-day there are great areas where these languages are spoken. Into the Pacific States came other settlers : from China and Japan. Chinese set up their laundries and little shops all along the coast, and the Japanese began to trade. At last the Government feared that all these newcomers would change the character of the American people, so a new law was passed which controlled very strictly the type of settlers accepted each year.

The U.S.A. became rich very quickly. With so much good land to use, and so many people coming into the country, there was great room for development. The Americans were the first to build large factories designed for "mass production." They split up the manufacturing of a motor car into parts, so that one man does only one thing all day, such as giving a turn to a screw as cars pass by him. This means that you can make more cars, more cheaply. But it means more unemployment

for the workers if there is difficulty in selling all the things which are made.

These are really two of the greatest problems of to-day. How can the workman in the factory be given a job which does not make him a slave to a machine? And how can we find a fair way to distribute all the wonderful things which we are able to make in the factories so easily? All over the world men are thinking of these problems, but we have not yet solved them properly.



The high buildings in New York are called sky-scrapers.

So the U.S.A. became the richest, and one of the greatest manufacturing nations of the world. Her Government declared a sort of protection over the rest of America. In South America there are many Republics governed by Spanish and Portuguese people, descendants of the conquerors of the old days. They are not so rich or powerful as the U.S.A. But the U.S.A. regards itself as their "Big Brother." Sometimes these Republics do not like it! But it means that no nation of the old world can now make colonies in any part of America. The two

greatest of the South American Republics are Brazil and the Argentine. They have vast lands for growing corn, fine plains for cattle, and valuable minerals. One day they will be rich and perhaps very powerful states.

The Government of the U.S.A. has always tried to stand apart from the quarrels of Europe, which they call the "old world." This was easier in the past ; but now, when one can travel so quickly and there is trade all over the world, it is not so easily done. Thus the U.S.A. was drawn into the First World War.

After the peace the President, Woodrow Wilson, was very keen to start a "League of Nations" to prevent more war. But when he went home his Parliament would not support him. Again in 1941 the U.S.A. was forced into the war by the attack of Germany's ally Japan, and now that the war is over she is trying, with the help of the United Nations, to plan for peace instead of war.

[DATES : *U.S.A. breaks away from England*, 1776 ; *American Civil War*, 1860-5 ; *U.S.A. enters World War*, 1941.]

32

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

If you look at a map of the world, you will see many of the countries coloured in red. These are the countries where British people live and govern

themselves, or countries where British people only come to trade. Some of these countries now govern themselves : others are ruled by governors sent out from Britain. Not long ago they were all called "the British Empire." But to-day we make a difference, and only speak of those countries which are governed by men sent out from Britain as the "Empire" : these places are the colonies.

The "Commonwealth" is also a family of nations, meeting together and discussing their common problems. Great Britain is one member of this family along with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Each of these nations governs itself, with its own Parliament and ministry, yet each acknowledges the Queen as the head of the commonwealth family.

The oldest Dominion is Canada, and it has an interesting story. To-day it stretches right across America, from the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, across the vast plains where the wheat is grown, to the high mountains and forests of British Columbia. But 200 years ago Canada was only a tiny French colony, with a couple of small cities on the St. Lawrence, and beyond were the woods and lakes known only to the Red Indians and the trappers. Then war came between France and England, and Canada was captured by the British.

After that came many British settlers, who spread right across the plains. At first there were quarrels between the English and the French, and quarrels too between the settlers and old England, because the men at home wanted to govern Canada by orders from London. At last a wise English governor was sent out by Queen Victoria about 100 years ago, and he said the right thing was to allow the Canadians to rule themselves by their own Parliament, and have their own ministers whom they could trust. From this new idea grew up the Canadian nation, a free people governing themselves as they thought best, yet looking back with friendship to old England, and helping her in time of need, as was the case in the world wars of 1914 and 1939. So Canada was the first Dominion.

Then there is the Union of South Africa. Here the story is a little different. There were Dutch settlers at the Cape soon after the new way to India was discovered. Then more than a hundred years ago the English captured the Cape from the Dutch, and the brave settlers moved away inland, preferring to risk their lives in the wilds rather than lose their independence. There were many Natives of great fighting races moving South at this time and so there were many wars. There were also several quarrels and some fighting between English and Dutch, until at last, some forty years ago, Britain once again gave back to these people their right to

rule themselves. The Englishmen and Dutchmen joined together to form the Union of South Africa, and thus there is growing up the South African nation.

Australia too is a Dominion, and here the story is different yet again. The earliest English explorers liked the beauty of the flowers so well that they called their landing place "Botany Bay." Soon that name had an evil meaning, for England began to send out criminals to the new continent as a punishment. After a time this was stopped, and free settlers began to arrive. They pushed up from the coast into the hills, and so through to the plains where they began to keep vast flocks of sheep. Others risked their lives exploring the waterless desert in the centre of Australia, and had dangerous escapes from the "black fellow," the very backward Natives of Australia. Yet others found gold and began to dig mines and seek their fortunes. So Australia grew up, with a few great cities along the coast, with vast sheep farms inland, and with no population at all in the desert country. In Australia too the people began to govern themselves with the help of small Parliaments, and at last, in 1901, the different colonies joined together to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

A thousand miles away from Australia lies another Dominion, New Zealand, a beautiful country with lofty snow-clad mountains, deep rivers, and a very good climate. Here the English and Scottish settlers

found a brave and able race, the Maoris, to oppose them. And after some fighting they made friends with the Maoris, who are now proud to be citizens of New Zealand too. Much of the land in New Zealand is farmland, and in England people eat mutton and cheese, butter, apples and many other things which come from New Zealand at the other end of the earth.

India is quite different. Here the British came first as a trading company and then as conquerors. But they did not conquer all the country; a large part was held by Indian princes who were joined by treaties to the British State. At first the British ruled India, but gradually the Indians themselves had a larger share in the government. Then in 1947 the British Parliament decided that it was time for the Indians to rule themselves. So to-day there are three new members of the Commonwealth in Asia: Pakistan, where the Moslems live; India, which is chiefly inhabited by the Hindus; and the great island of Ceylon.

And now the Colonies in Africa are moving towards independence. The first to become a self-governing state was the Gold Coast (1957) which is now called Ghana. You must watch what happens to the other colonies.

[DATES : *English Capture Canada*, 1759 ; *Canada begins to govern itself*, 1839 ; *The Cape becomes British*, 1814 ; *First settlers in Australia*, 1788 ; *Union of South Africa*, 1909 ; *Commonwealth of Australia*, 1901 ; *Dominions of India and Pakistan*, 1947.]

THE NEW AFRICA

You can catch an aeroplane at London to-day and land in Cape Town the next day. Yet less than one hundred years ago, people knew practically nothing of the inside of Africa. They did not know about the great lakes, the large rivers or the lofty mountains. They knew practically nothing about the people who lived there. For when the Portuguese found the way round Africa to India, in 1496, they were content to sail to India and merely to have a few forts on the coasts of Africa. The Dutch, too, made a fort at Cape Town, but for a long time did not go far inland.

At last, about one hundred years ago, the English took Cape Town from the Dutch and sent out many settlers. Gradually the Dutch and English began to go farther inland, and make new farms for themselves. Then they met the Bantu peoples coming south, and there was often fighting between them.

Now at this time the Arab slave traders were working right through northern and central Africa. They would come suddenly on a village, burn it, seize the men and boys, and take them off for slaves. At other times they would bring guns and powder, and trade them with the chiefs for slaves.

In England many people knew of this. They sent men out to Africa to teach the Africans about God. And these missionaries wrote home about the horrors of the slave trade.

One of the greatest missionaries was a Scotsman, named David Livingstone. He was a poor boy who started out to be a doctor. Then he went out as a missionary, and he spent much of his time exploring the land. He went on long journeys, with his train of porters carrying their loads on their heads. Sometimes Livingstone rode on his bullock called "Sinbad." At times when he was sick he had to be carried in a hammock. He discovered the great river Zambesi and the Victoria Falls, which the Natives called "The Sounding Smoke"! He came back to England to tell about his discoveries, and of the slave trade.

Then the Government sent him out again and he discovered Lake Nyasa. Later he went north and discovered Lake Tanganyika, but there he died. His faithful boys buried his heart there—where now a monument stands—but they brought his body home to England, where it was buried with great honour.

Livingstone had done more than any other man to show how it was possible to travel in Africa, and what a wonderful country it was. Many others followed him, especially an explorer called Stanley, who was Livingstone's friend.

The countries of Europe were delighted to hear

of these new discoveries. They wanted to help put down the slave trade, and they wanted also to get rich by trading in Africa. Soon all the different parts of Africa were divided up among the European nations. They sent out governors to rule the country. Traders and merchants went who dealt in ivory and other things. Planters came who grew cocoa and cotton, sisal and coffee and such things which can only grow in hot countries.

Railways were built, schools and new mission stations opened, hospitals were started, and doctors studied how to keep people healthy in hot countries. At first the white men died when they came, but now they know better how to live. In most of these colonies there were only a few white planters and traders ; most of the people were Africans. But in South Africa, where the British and Dutch had settled, there were many white men and they ruled themselves, with their own Parliament. Their country is now called the Union of South Africa as you have read in the last chapter.

Other people came to Africa besides the white men. There were the Arab traders from the East, who were the slavers. This trade has been stopped, as far as possible, and the British Navy still watches to see that no slave ships sail across the Red Sea to Arabia.

Then there were the Indians. They came to East Africa and settled along the coast. They

helped to make the railway through Kenya to Uganda, and in every town there are the Indian shopkeepers hard at work. Further south, in Natal, many Indians came to work as coolies on the rice plantations, and stayed in the country.

So Africa to-day is changing very quickly. There are roads, and railways, and aeroplanes to carry one about the country. The Africans are everywhere going to school, and learning the knowledge of the white man. And the future is a problem.

[DATES : *Africa divided between the European nations by a Conference held at Berlin, 1884-5 ; David Livingstone, 1813-1873.*]

34

THE WORLD TO-DAY

Each of the last five chapters of this book ends with a sort of question. For the world to-day is full of difficult questions, and the rulers of the different countries are finding them very hard to answer.

All through this book there are many stories of wars and fighting. For the last hundred years and more the different nations have been growing into single states. Besides such nations as England, France, Spain and Russia—Germany was united, and Italy became a single state. Since the First World War other nations have become separate

states. Now all these nation-states were very proud of themselves ; they wanted to be rich and have much trade ; they wanted to be powerful and have colonies ; and they were jealous of their neighbours. This often led to war in the past. To prevent further wars a League of Nations was set up in 1919—a sort of society of the different states—where statesmen could meet together and discuss their problems. But one of the greatest nations, the U.S.A., did not join. And others, such as Japan and Germany, left as soon as they did not get what they wanted.

Then came the war of 1939-45 which left three great powers, U.S.A., Soviet Russia, and the British Commonwealth, supreme. On them falls the greatest responsibility for arranging peace for the future, and for leading the “United Nations” to co-operate instead of fight with each other. If they can agree there is hope ; if they quarrel and drift apart the future is dark.

Another great difficulty is that with the help of machinery we can make so many more things, and grow much greater crops, than we could before. And yet very often these same machines throw men out of work, and people have not enough money to buy the goods which can be made in such plenty. So the machines have to stand idle ! It seems almost as if we were becoming slaves to our own machines ! Clever men in all countries are

studying this problem, and trying to find a better way to distribute the goods which we can make so freely.

Most countries with factories are trying to find new markets, and most states have put higher taxes on goods brought in from abroad. All this leads to ill-feeling, and does not help to solve the difficult problem.

But we must not get downhearted about the difficulties of our own day. As you will see from the stories in this book, all through history people have had problems to solve, and difficulties to face. The more we know about the past, and about the way in which other countries have grown up, and what their people are like and how they are governed to-day, the more we can do to help our own generation.

35

LONG, LONG AGO

A Note on Time Charts

In a certain college in South Africa there is a very long corridor, and along the wall have been placed little circles to show the sun, the earth, and the various planets ; this has been done to help people to realise how far these are away from each other, and how small they are in comparison to this distance. But although the corridor is a very long one, and the circle representing the sun very small, yet the nearest star cannot be shown on the wall at all—it has to be shown on a distant building. That helps us a little to picture to ourselves how great these distances are.

It is the same with Time. It is very difficult even for grown-up people

to realise how long ago different things happened. When people say "long ago," they often mean very different things. You may mean a few weeks, or before the last school holidays, or several years ago when you were only little. If we say "long ago" when we think of events in history we still mean very different things; we may mean a little more than 100 years ago when Napoleon was still ruling in France, or nearly 2,000 when Jesus Christ was on earth, or many thousands of years before that when the Pyramids were built.

When we go still further back beyond the time when man could write it is still more difficult: we find the remains of ancient men and have to judge their age from the rocks or river beds in which they are found. And if some one says "that's probably 100,000 years ago" what idea does that really convey to us? How can we understand it?

The best way to try and understand about Time is to draw a picture for it. We must start counting from somewhere, and we start from the birth of Jesus Christ: of course other people may have other ways of counting, and we know the Muslims count from the year Muhammad fled to Medina (see Chapter 18). But we count from "the year of our Lord": all events after that are labelled A.D. (=Anno Domini=the year of our Lord), and all before are labelled B.C. (=Before Christ). Events before Christ are counted *backwards*. If you think about it you will be able to understand.

Now you can make your picture of Time or Time Chart. You can do it on a large strip of paper up and down the wall, or in your notebook. You must make a starting mark (from the birth of Christ) and measure off equal distances above and below. These can represent each a 100 years (or century), you can divide them again into 10ths for 10-year periods. Now you can begin filling in the dates in this book—put A.D. 800 for Charlemagne's coronation, and 44 B.C. for Julius Cæsar's death.

You will see, if you fill in the date of the Great Pyramid at 3733 B.C., how far above the starting line it is. Indeed, if you want to go back into "prehistoric" times, those times when we have no written records, but can only judge the dates for early man, you will have to make a chart that stretches right up to the roof. Or else you can make your small divisions for 1,000 years each instead of 100. When you have once made your chart look at it often and fill in new dates which you find from time to time. If you look at it carefully you will realise what a long time man has been developing, and what a short time is occupied by the period we call "Modern Times," and how small a place we have ourselves in the great March of History!

